

Hafa Adai!

Island girls cannot resist going to the beach, wherever it is. **PAGE 2**

Free birthing classes available at CHCC. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The District Court for the NMI building in Gualo Rai's U.S. and CNMI flags have been on half-staff since Sept. 8 when President Joseph Biden signed a proclamation ordering all states and territories to fly their U.S. flags at half-staff until sunset yesterday, Sept. 19, in honor of Queen Elizabeth II.

Flags in half-staff to honor the late Queen Elizabeth II

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimbewrlly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The District Court for the NMI has lowered its United States and NMI flags to half-staff in honor of Queen Elizabeth II who was laid to rest yesterday.

The District Court for the NMI joined the rest of the nation by lowering its flags to half-staff as a show of respect and to honor the life of Queen Elizabeth II who died last Sept. 8, 2022 and was laid to rest yesterday.

See **FLAGS** on **Page 4**

Ballots start arriving, CEC prepares for NI early voting

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Batches of ballots coming from Nebraska started arriving yesterday as the Commonwealth Election Commission is preparing for this Friday's start of early voting for the Northern Islands.

CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol said they are open from 8:30am to 4pm every day, even weekends, until Nov. 7 starting this Friday for early voting for the Northern Islands.

CEC administrative officer Robin N. Sablan disclosed that they just received yesterday afternoon the ballots for Precinct 4D or for the Northern Islands.

See **BALLOTS** on **Page 4**



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol checks yesterday an office being repaired to be used as a polling place for the early voting for the Northern Islands starting this Friday. The polling place for the Northern Islands early voting is CEC's previous office that is converted as the commission's new conference room.

Manglona appeals to Torres to respect budget legislative process

» **House Ways and Means chairman stands by budget work of committee**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saying that he stands by the work that the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee did with respect to



Manglona

the House's budget version of the government's operations for Fiscal Year 2023, Rep. Donald M. Manglona

(Ind-Rota) also appealed Friday to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

See **MANGLONA** on **Page 4**

Receiver reopens online auctions for sale of IPI's casino equipment

By BEN BLASCHKE
INSIDE ASIAN GAMING

Casino gaming equipment owned by Saipan casino operator Imperial Pacific Inter-

national (CNMI) LLC is back on the market and set to be auctioned off from next month after a local court lifted a stay on the sale.

See **RECEIVER** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

To attract more visitors from Japan to The Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority recently conducted a series of FAM tours.

PAGE 6



NATION

President Joe Biden says U.S. forces would defend Taiwan if China tries to invade the self-ruled island.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Steven Spielberg's autobiographical coming-of-age drama "The Fabelmans" won the Toronto International Film Festival's top prize.

PAGE 15



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Island girls cannot resist going to the beach, wherever it is

U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Tiona Jones, daughter of Richard and Celina Farrell and a graduate of Tinian High School, has been assigned to Thule Air Base, Greenland, 750 miles north of the Arctic Circle and 947 miles from the North Pole.

Jones raised the CNMI flag for the first time on Greenland, right before taking the traditional "polar plunge" into arctic waters.

Thule Air Base is now part of the United States Space Force and is the northernmost installation of the U.S. Armed Forces. As the first sergeant, Jones is responsible for advising leaders on any adverse trends affecting the readiness, health,

morale, resiliency, welfare, and discipline of Airmen and Guardians on Thule. Basically,

her job is to take care of people. Jones says the hardest part of adjusting to life in Thule,

Greenland is learning how to sleep while it is currently daylight 24 hours a day. (PR)



The Tinian High School graduate proudly raises the CNMI flag.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Tiona Jones poses with friends on the beach near Thule Air Base in Greenland.

House Ways and Means reviewing subpoenaed documents

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee is still reviewing the many documents Department of Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig submitted to comply with the committee's subpoena.

Committee chair Rep. Don-

ald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said Friday that the documents will not be referred to the House of the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee or any other committees.

"We are in the middle of the budget process. And so while we are waiting for the Senate, the committee will take a

look at all the documents that were submitted by the secretary and we'll address those issues in our committee meetings," he said.

Manglona said they had just received the documents Monday, last week, so they had no time to discuss it as a committee.

Manglona issued a sub-

poena to compel Finance to provide numerous reports or documents that the committee members have sought.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig submitted to the committee the requested documents by the Sept. 12 deadline. Manglona did not indicate whether all the requested documents were submitted.

Zoning Office closed Sept. 20-23

The Zoning Office will be closed from Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, to Friday, Sept. 23, 2022, to prepare the office for relocation.

Pardon the inconvenience

as the Zoning Office works to serve the public better.

For any questions, concerns, or inquiries please feel free to email permits@cnmizoning.com for assistance. (PR)



Love comes in many shapes and sizes.



September 18-24, 2022 - Child Passenger Safety Week
September 24, 2022 - National Seat Check Saturday



For more information call CNMI Department of Public Safety
SAIPAN 664-9125/9084/85 | TINIAN 433-9222/2041 | ROTA 532-9433/9530
www.dps.gov.mp

NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat

Free birthing classes available at CHCC

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

As a means to help first-time mothers alleviate some of the fear that comes with childbirth, the Commonwealth

Health Center is offering free birthing classes once a month.

According to certified nurse midwife Brynna Lynch, who spearheads the class, the class is designed for first time moms or parents who haven't

given birth at CHCC.

"The purpose is to provide information about delivery at CHCC and a space for questions to make the hospital and labor less intimidating," she said.

The class, Lynch said, is held once a month on a Friday from 4:30pm to 6pm.

Interested participants can contact the CHCC women's clinic for the monthly date and to sign up or if they are patients at WCC, they may sign up at the clinic at the front desk.

"Moms are encouraged to bring their birth partners but are welcome alone. There is

a PowerPoint presentation and a labor and delivery tour afterwards. Ladies can call," said Lynch.

Lynch is a midwife of three years who moved to Saipan from Arkansas in December 2021 to work at CHCC in clinic and on Labor and Delivery.

"My mom delivered at home with a midwife and her strength in motherhood is the reason I am who I am today. I haven't given birth myself, but I have attended hundreds of women as they have brought their babies into the world and I bring their experiences with

me when I am with my patients," she said.

Ultimately, Lynch said she aspires to help women turn their fear of child birth into power.

"I absolutely love being with women as they transition to motherhood and learn how strong their bodies are. Childbirth is a life changing experience and I want to help women turn fear into power," she said.

In addition to Lynch, CHCC has six other midwives who are ready and excited to bring years of experience to provide exceptional labor and delivery care for first time mothers, and mothers in general.

In addition, four backup physicians who support certified midwives in childbirth are available to share some insight on significant complications or C-sections during childbirth.

These experienced providers are also available 24 hours a day for questions on labor and delivery by phone and also to provide care for mothers as they move to the postpartum stages of childbirth.

"Our team of labor and delivery and OB nurses are exceptional and compassionate and we also have lactation consultants available to assist with breastfeeding when requested," said Lynch.

Woman found guilty in visa fraud scheme appeals court's decision

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman who was recently sentenced to an imprisonment term of one month for conspiracy to defraud the United States for her involvement in a CNMI-Only visa scheme, has filed an appeal to reverse the District Court for the NMI's decision.

Servillana Soriano, through attorney Mark Hanson, has appealed the recent conviction and sentence imposed by the District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona against her with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

In addition, Hanson has filed a motion for Soriano's release pending the outcome of the appeal.

The lawyer claims that his client's appeal raises substantial questions of law likely to result in reversal or an order for a new trial or a sentence that does not include a term of imprisonment.

According to court documents, Hanson said that his client intends to challenge the admission of her written statement during trial.

The lawyer explained that the Court is aware of the

substantive bases for Soriano's challenge to the written statement.

"Ms. Soriano would submit that the written statement admitted against her was contradicted by other evidence of contemporaneous statements of Ms. Soriano that negate the efficacy of the statement as a whole — the patently self-serving statement having been drafted by the Government's case agent, not actual[ly] made by Ms. Soriano herself," Hanson said.

Hanson noted that his client also intends to challenge the admission of the unfounded testimony of Senior Immigration Officer Monica Verma at trial.

The testimony that is being contested was the testimony made regarding the statutory or regulatory prohibition on an employer/petitioner of CW-1 status for a foreign worker in the Commonwealth seeking and obtaining reimbursement from the foreign worker beneficiary for the costs to the employer/petitioner of obtaining that CW-1 status.

"Soriano submits that without the admission of her written statement there was insufficient evidence from which

See **WOMAN** on Next Page

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Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority
Office of the Governor
"Driving You Forward"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) relocated to the Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility located in Lowerbase, Saipan across the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Office. In addition, COTA's One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Center's contact number has changed to (670) 236-2682 effective August 25, 2022.

For additional information please contact COTA's Administrative Office at (670) 664-2682. Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ **Amalia M. Magofna**

**Acting Special Assistant
for Public Transportation**



2nd Floor Rm. 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-2682; Fax: (670) 664-2692; Email: alfredac.maratita@gov.mp

USPS ready to deliver the Holidays for the nation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The United States Postal Service announced critical investments in personnel, technology and the postal network footprint that have been made in advance of the 2022 holiday season.

Preparations for the 2022 holiday season began in January and build on the investments and organizational strategy improvements made ahead of the successful 2021 holiday mailing and shipping season. These proactive measures are part of Deliver-

ing for America, the Postal Service's 10-year strategic plan.

"Successfully delivering for the holidays is a cornerstone of our Delivering for America 10-year plan," said Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. "Thanks to the 655,000 women and men of the Postal Service, recent investments and operational precision improvements, we are ready to be the most used delivery provider this holiday season."

2022 Peak Holiday Season Prepa-

rations Include:

■ 100,000 part-time employees converted to full-time career positions since January 2021 (41,000 part-time employees converted since January 2022). Thanks to a strong benefits package and investments in career growth opportunities for employees across the organization, the Postal Service has converted more than 100,000 employees from part-time to full time, career positions since the beginning of 2021. 41,000 part time

employees have converted into career roles since January of this year.

■ Hiring additional 28,000 peak season employees; aggressive hiring efforts continue. USPS is actively hiring 28,000 seasonal employees. Across the nation, the Postal Service is hiring an additional 1,000 truck drivers, along with letter carriers and processing team members. Job seekers can find and apply for thousands of open seasonal positions by visiting usps.com/hiring.

■ 60 million packages processed each day. Thanks to investments in new package processing equipment and operational precision improvements, the Postal Service will be able to expand its processing capacity and process nearly 60 million packages every day this holiday season compared to 53 million in 2021.

■ 249 new package processing machines deployed across the nation since January 2021 (137 installed this Year). These new machines are stra-

tegic investments in local community postal infrastructure enabling postal workers to sort and process packages of all sizes more quickly and reliably. By November, the Postal Service will have installed 249 new package processing machines across the nation since the beginning of 2021. This is part of the organization's \$40 billion investment in new technology and facilities under the Delivering for America plan.

■ 8.5 million square feet added across 52 annexes and facilities. In 2021, the Postal Service signed multi-year leases on 52 peak season annexes and processing facilities which added 8.5 million square feet to the Postal Service footprint. These facilities are strategically located throughout the country to augment space shortages at existing postal facilities.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MANGLONA

From Page 1

to respect the budget process in the Legislature.

At a press conference in the House chamber, Manglona, who authored the budget bill, said they are ready to address any concerns that the Senate may have in regards to the work that the committee did and the reasons behind their decisions.

"The budget is not complete. The Legislature has not passed a balanced budget. I ask that the governor respect the budget process in the Legislature," the chairman said.

Last Aug. 7, 16 House members present at a session unanimously passed the House's budget bill to appropriate \$109.7 million out of \$150.4 million in total budgetary resources, and \$52.6 million from the American Rescue Plan Act funds, for the CNMI government operations in

fiscal year 2023.

Torres recently slammed the House majority leadership over the budget bill that he described as "irresponsible, negligent, and illegal," by first reducing the funding for the departments and agencies, yet giving themselves an additional \$1.2 million of House allocations.

Manglona said Friday that Torres had three months since the initial budget submission to address the issues that are being brought up today.

"That was not done. And so we took upon ourselves to make those tough decisions," Manglona said.

He said they are respecting the process and that as the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee is now undertaking the budget, they stand ready with them in getting a balanced budget passed before the deadline.

Torres has until Oct. 1 to enact a new budget bill into law or risk a potential shutdown of government operations during an election year.

Manglona said they are making a responsible approach in making sure that the next legislature, as well as the next administration whoever that will be, works with the budget that is transparent, responsible and takes into account the preparation for the fiscal cliff and that when ARPA money will run out.

Rep. Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan) said he is a retired Army veteran, and that Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) is also a veteran, while Rep. Celina R. Babauta's (D-Saipan) husband is a veteran too.

"We are here to defend the veterans," Lizama said.

He said Torres' proposal was \$286,838 for the veterans and the House passed \$297,000.

"Do you know how to do the math?" Lizama said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

BALLOTS

From Page 1

Sablan said they picked up from the postal office yesterday morning the first batch consisting of 2,100 ballots for Precinct 3B.

He said they picked up yesterday afternoon the ballots for Precinct 4D and that they were still conducting an inventory.

Sablan said they ordered by batches because early voting starts Friday for the Northern Islands so they want that first.

"For the Northern Islands, they're

not many voters. But we urge all voters who are not able to come to the polling site by Nov. 8 general election day to come and vote," he said.

As of yesterday afternoon, a construction company was still doing repairs/renovation at the CEC offices in Susupe that were damaged by typhoons.

Among the offices being repaired is an office that will be used as a polling place for early voting for the Northern Islands.

Sablan said repairs will be done by yesterday for the polling site for early voting.

The repaired office that will be

used as a polling place for the Northern Islands early voting is CEC's new conference room.

There were 184 registered voters for the Northern Islands. Five of those registered voters are currently on Agrihan, while the remaining are staying on Saipan.

Valentino Nicky Taisacan is running for the Northern Islands mayor under the Republican Party, while Jocelyn Frances Aldan Kapileo is seeking the post as an independent candidate.

Current Northern Islands mayor Vicente Santos is not seeking reelection.

FLAGS

From Page 1

On Sept. 8, following the news of the queen's passing, United States President Joseph Biden signed a proclamation ordering all states and territories to fly their U.S. flags at half-staff until sunset yesterday, Sept. 19, in honor of the late monarch.

"As a mark of respect for the memory of Queen Elizabeth II, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, on the

day of interment. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations," the proclamation stated.

Biden, in his proclamation, also noted the tremendous life that Queen Elizabeth lived and the relationship she helped strengthen between the United States and the United Kingdom.

"In a world of constant change, she was a steadying presence and a source of comfort and pride for generations of Britons, including many who have never known their country without her. Queen Elizabeth II led always with grace, an unwavering commitment to duty, and the incomparable power of her example. She was a stateswoman of unmatched dignity and constancy who deepened the bedrock Alliance between

the United Kingdom and the United States. She helped make our relationship special. The seven decades of her history-making reign bore witness to an age of unprecedented human advancement and the forward march of human dignity. Her legacy will loom large in the pages of British history, and in the story of our world," he said.

According to international media outlets, Britain held a grand state funeral for the late queen starting with the final public viewing at Westminster Abbey where she was crowned nearly 70 years ago.

Following the viewing was the religious service, followed by a procession from Westminster to Wellington Arch.

Finally, the queen's coffin was transported to the royal Windsor estate King George VI Memorial Chapel where she was laid to rest near her parents and late husband, Prince Philip.

RECEIVER

From Page 1

The first of two auctions for IPI's equipment is scheduled to take place on Oct. 7 followed by the second on Dec. 9. Both will feature closed bids with all items for auction to be posted no later than five days before at www.gamingequipmentauction.com.

The sale comes almost a year after an original plan to run six auctions for the equipment was put on hold following an offer from IPI to place around US\$2 million into an escrow account pending judgement of a related court matter. The auctions were delayed even further when IPI said it was to receive US\$150 million in funding from an investor which would allow it to settle outstanding debts.

That investment has never materialized, with receiver Clear Management Ltd, a company headed by veteran industry executive Tim Shepherd, now called back in to resume the asset sale.

"We have been on standby as the legal wrangling continued," Shepherd told Inside Asian Gaming.

"Our concern obviously has been that this highly valuable gaming equipment has spent another year in the humid, muggy environment of a shuttered casino on a tropical island.

"The good news is that IPI bought from world class suppliers like Light & Wonder and Aristocrat, so the equipment we have seen is still in

very good shape indeed. There is a lot of equipment that has never come out of its box.

"Also the industry has picked up globally and we have already been approached by new interested parties keen to feed demand for great casino equipment scarcely or not at all used in an auction like this."

Shepherd said Clear Management would assess the possibility of holding more auctions if required towards the end of the year.

Interested buyers can bid by email via bids@gamingequipment-auction.com

Imperial Palace-Saipan closed its doors in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has remained shuttered since, with IPI's casino license suspended by the Commonwealth Casino Commission last year following a series of complaints for failure to comply with various requirements under its license agreement.

As reported by IAG, the total amount owed by IPI to the CNMI government in unpaid license and regulatory fees alone is set to pass US\$100 million on Oct. 1, 2022.

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission

See original article at <https://www.asgam.com/index.php/2022/09/15/receiver-reopens-online-auctions-for-sale-of-imperial-pacifics-saipan-casino-equipment/>

WOMAN

From Page 3

the jury could reasonably infer that Ms. Soriano became a member of a conspiracy to defraud USCIS knowing of its illegal objective and intending to accomplish it. That patently prejudicial error at trial was only compounded by the unfounded testimony of Ms. Verma and by other evidentiary errors at trial," Hanson said.

Hanson also argues that the evidence presented clearly demonstrated that his client's actions were as a result of her misunderstanding of the requirements of the law, not with an intent to defraud.

"The testimonial and documentary evidence in this case does not suggest

beyond a reasonable doubt that Ms. Soriano knowingly and intentionally became a member of a conspiracy to defraud the United States," he argues.


Soriano, 61, was sentenced to a one-month imprisonment last Sept. 9.

Manglona sentenced Soriano to one month in prison for one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States government.

Following her sentence, Soriano will be placed on seven months' home detention as part of her probation, and three years of supervised release.


Soriano was directed to self-surrender to U.S. Marshals at the Department of Corrections on Oct. 14 at 8am.

Soriano was found guilty by jury for the charges filed against her last year.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-22-039

GARAPAN SEWER MAINS AND MANHOLES REPLACEMENTS

(CORAL TREE AVE., DATE STREET, CPL DERENCE JACK ROAD, PLUMERIA AVENUE, PALM STREET, GINGER AVENUE AND ROYAL PALM AVENUE)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Garapan Sewer Mains and Manholes Replacements (Coral Tree Avenue, Date Street, CPL Derence Jack Road, Plumeria Avenue, Palm Street, Ginger Avenue and Royal Palm Avenue) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of but not limited to the installation of gravity sewer main, new sewer manholes, replacement and rehabilitation of sewer manholes, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, relocation of existing 10-inch waterline and the abandonment of existing sewer line, removal and removal and disposal of existing sewer manholes.

The project is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Infrastructure Recovery Program (IRP) office of the Governor. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ARPA/IRP.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-22-039, Garapan Sewer Mains and Manholes Replacements – Coral Tree Avenue, Date Street, CPL Derence Jack Road, Plumeria Avenue, Palm Street, Ginger Avenue and Royal Palm Avenue” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 12, 2022, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 21, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, Engineer via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician Senior, via email address at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

MVA conducts FAM tours for Japan travel agents, media

To attract more visitors from Japan to The Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority recently conducted a series of FAM tours to familiarize Japanese travel agents, media, airline representatives, and influencers with the destination.

On Sept. 1, 2022, United Airlines commenced direct flights between Narita and Saipan three times a week. The MVA conducted five FAM tours between Aug. 20 and Sept. 7, 2022, to bring partners up-to-date on what The Marianas has to offer visitors.

“FAM tours remain a very important part of the MVA’s marketing strategy in all our source markets, as they provide an opportunity for participants to gain first-hand knowledge of the destination and better help us promote or sell the destination,” said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. “For Japan, it’s particularly important at this time to reacquaint the travel trade and the public with The Marianas, as we have been off the sales rack since the departure of Delta Air Lines. This FAM tours program will better position The Marianas as there are now direct non-stop service flights from Japan to Saipan. Special thanks to the support of our partner hotels, restaurants, and optional tour



Travel agents from Japan visit the iconic islet of Managaha on Saipan in The Marianas on Aug. 30, 2022, as part of a FAM tour conducted by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

companies that help support each tour.”

The first travel agent FAM tour from Aug. 20-24 included representatives of HIS, Rakuten Travel GUM, T.P. Micronesia Inc., NTA, Meguru Co. Ltd, Trans-world Journey, Eurasia Travel Co, TravellIsland, be.inc Adventure Inc., and Lawson Entertainment Inc.

Eleven popular social media influencers specializing in

travel conducted a FAM tour on Aug. 20-26, sharing with their followers their experiences with skydiving, snorkel-



A travel agent from Japan takes a horseback riding tour in Kagman, Saipan, in The Marianas on August 22, 2022, as part of a FAM tour conducted by the Marianas Visitors Authority.



Japanese media reps visit Sumiyoshi Shrine on Rota in The Marianas on Sept. 3, 2022, as part of a media FAM tour conducted by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

ing at Grotto, taking a buggy tour, taking tours of Rota and Tinian, and more. The tour was handled by Tasi Tours.

The second travel agent FAM Tour from Aug. 27-31 included representatives of JTB, HIS, KNT, Veltra Inc., Hankyu Travel International, Reiwa Travel, JCB Card, JR Tokai Tours Inc., Heart Agency Co. Ltd., Yamas Japan, Adventures Inc., and T.P. Micronesia Inc.

A golf FAM tour was held on Sept. 1-4 with representatives of United Airlines, United Tours Co. Ltd., and IACE Travel Corp.

The final FAM tour from Sept. 1-7 included media representatives of CREA Traveller, GENIC, Travel.jp, Asahi Newspaper, Travel Voice, Wing Travel, Traicy, and United Airlines. The media tour was handled by PDI and covered Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The MVA will further promote The Marianas at the Japan Association of Travel Agents Tourism Expo on Sept. 22-25, 2022, in Tokyo. (PR)

Portion of Fina Sisu will have water interruption today and Thursday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption today, Sept. 20, from 8am to 5:30pm, and Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022, from 8am to 5:30pm for customers located at the Joeten Subdivision in Fina Sisu along Bobolong Drive. Customers should expect low water pressure to no water within the outage period.

The scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC’s contractor for the Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement Project to perform the permanent abandonment of the existing 6-inch ACP at Tun Antonio Apa Road after the isolation and to also remove the temporary 6-inch gate valve and cap the existing ACP. Customers should expect normal water service soon thereafter.

This project is part of the Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement Project funded by USEPA, to provide a more reliable water system. The transition work is in part of the decommissioning of the old waterline to eliminate risks of contamination and frequent line breaks.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Deadline for Form SF-200 on Sept. 30

The Settlement Fund is requesting all members to submit their 2022 Annuity Recipient Information Update form (Form SF-200) by the September 30, 2022 deadline. The form can be obtained online at <https://www.nmisf.com/forms-2/> and at the Settlement Fund office in Capitol Hill.

Members residing in Rota and Tinian may submit documents to Settlement Fund staff who will be in Rota and Tinian on the following dates:

Rota		
Date	Time	Location
Monday, Sept. 19	9:30am-4:20pm	Mayor’s Office
Tuesday, Sept. 20	8:30am-11:30am	Mayor’s Office
Tinian		
Friday, Sept. 23	8:30am-4:30pm	Mayor’s Office
Friday, Sept. 30	8:30am-4:30pm	Mayor’s Office

Failure to comply, including failure to provide complete information or documents, will result in a suspension of benefit payments until such time that a member is in full compliance.

Forms and accompanying documents may be submitted by: (1) email to info@nmisf.com; (2) facsimile to (670) 664-8080, with the original sent by mail; or (3) hand delivery to the Settlement Fund, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill. (PR)

4.9-magnitude quake on Pagan

At 4:31am on Sept. 18, 2022, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred near Pagan in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no Tsunami Warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)

HotelAmericano is latest ProaPerks partner

HotelAmericano is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 5% discount per night.

The hotel is located on Ginger Ave. in Garapan, with telephone no. (670) 233-6074.

HotelAmericano joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., AQUA-SMITH, Athlete’s Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Beach Garden Hotel & Apartment, Capital Hotel, Chagi Norf Kitchen, Boarderline, Bolis R

US 2, Bistro Marianas, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Decor, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Clear Water Place, Clear Water Residence, Clear Water Villa, Coral Garden Hotel, Cosmos Lounge, D’ Chef’s Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Furusato Restaurant, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold’s Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc., Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman’s Modern Bakery, Inc., Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, HotelAmericano, Ina’s Kitchen, International

Roller Skates, Isla Shave Ice, Islander Rent A Car, Java Joe’s, JC Cafe, Jhen’s Sweet Corner Cakes, Judy’s Cafe & Restaurant, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/ Taco Bell, Kiki’s, Korea House Restaurant, Latte Built Gym, Lohas Massage, Lohas Nails, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Majesty Restaurant, Mariana Lighthouse, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Paradise Dental Spa, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Residence Lodge, Saipan Computer Services, Salt &

Barber Salon, Shirley’s Cafe, Salty’s, Stay Cafe, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Summit Auto Repair Shop, Surf Club, Residence Lodge, Tempura’s Best Restaurant, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Time Creation Corp., Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (PR)

Center for future entrepreneurs unveiled at UOG

A place for University of Guam students and island residents to help launch their dreams of becoming entrepreneurs was unveiled at the University of Guam Sept. 15.

Bank of Guam and University of Guam leadership attended the unveiling of the Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, located on the second floor of the Jesus & Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration building at UOG.

The bank is committing \$250,000 over five years to support the center.

The occasion stirred a special feeling for Joaquin "Kin" Cook, Bank of Guam president and CEO, and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Center front, from left: Katrina Perez, University of Guam Endowment Foundation; dean Fred Schumann, School of Business and Public Administration; former Gov. Joseph Ada; senior vice president and provost Anita Borja Enriquez, UOG president Thomas W. Krise; Bank of Guam CEO Joaquin Cook; Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero, senior vice president and chief experience officer for Bank of Guam; and Opaque representatives Tim "Sois" Deleon Guerrero, Rome Daco and Ed Gaza. In the back, from left: James Ji, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, and Mike Naholowaa, with the UOG Board of Regents.

House passes 4 Amata-co-sponsored veterans bills

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Uifa'atali Amata welcomed House passage of four bipartisan Veterans bills that she cosponsored, along with commending and voicing support for another, as all five bills were first voted through the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and then were passed by the House on Wednesday.

"It's a pleasure to support these legislative efforts to improve services for our Veterans," said Aumua Amata. "Each of these bills is very important to our nation's Veterans, as supported by major Veterans Service Organizations, and will make a difference for them in key areas to include accessing VA services, home purchases, student assistance, and benefits to the families of fallen heroes."

Amata cosponsored the following four House-passed bills:

■ H.R. 7939 - Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act of 2022, led by Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA), with Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC), Rep. Aumua Amata (American Samoa), and Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA). This bill extends GI Bill flexibilities that Congress initially established for COVID-19 to all emergencies, closing gaps in benefits for veterans under all

future presidential emergency declarations regarding tuition, housing, and other necessary services.

■ H.R. 7846 - Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2022, led by Rep. Elaine Luria (D-VA), with Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX), Rep. Aumua Amata (American Samoa), and Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA). This bill boosts compensation for certain benefits to disabled veterans and military families including clothing allowance, and dependency and indemnity benefits paid to survivors and families of service members who died in the line of duty or suffer from a service-related injury or disease, ensuring that these recipients do not face reductions from inflation.

■ H.R. 5916 - Wounded Warrior Access Act, led by Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA) with Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX), Rep. Aumua Amata (American Samoa), Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA), Rep. Jennifer González-Colón (R-PR), and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). This bill streamlines the process for veterans to submit a claim for benefits to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), improving access to their C-Files by allowing them to request access via an online portal



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congresswoman Aumua Amata speaks in a joint veterans hearing with the VFW.

and receive a PDF copy of their C-file. Currently, veterans must travel to regional VA locations or mail a form to request a paper or CD copy of their C-file, slowing down the process for them to receive benefits.

■ H.R. 8260 - Faster Payments to Veterans Survivors' Act of 2022, led by Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH), with Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC), Rep. Aumua Amata (American Samoa), and 28 other Members of the House. This bill improves the VA processes for identifying, locating, and paying hard-to-find survivors of recently deceased veterans. According to the VA, at one point in 2020, the VA owed more than \$155 million in undisbursed life insurance benefits to nearly

15,000 individuals, representing approximately \$10,500 per family. The bill requires several key procedural improvements to complete these payments within two years, and report back to Congress.

She also commends this bill passed Tuesday:

■ H.R. 7735 - Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act of 2022, led by Ranking Member Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL), Veterans' Affairs Committee, with Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA). This bill streamlines the home buying process for veterans and their families, and requires the VA to update to a modern digital appraisal process, helping veterans reduce costs and complete home purchases faster. (PR)

grandson of the bank's founder Jesus Leon Guerrero, who spoke in front of a mural featuring a quote from his grandfather, which reads: "My philosophy has always been that a man is entitled to take at least one or two leaps in life in the pursuit of a challenging and difficult endeavor that will make a difference."

Cook remarked that his late grandfather took the leap and then set the foundation for what is now Bank of Guam.

UOG president Thomas

W. Krise thanked the bank, the UOG Endowment Foundation, the SBPA, the Small Business Development Center and others for the partnership.

The center can help UOG do a better job of serving the island community, Krise said.

"We also seek to diversify our revenue resources, and so having an innovation and entrepreneurship center helps us to think entrepreneurially," Krise said.

James Ji, Ph.D., director of the center and assistant professor of management at SBPA, said, "We are truly thankful and honored to have Bank of Guam as our partner and title sponsor. We feel they are the perfect partner in supporting us to achieve our mission - to spur entrepreneurial ideas and innovation among our students and within the community."

The center is available for workshops, trainings, presentations, and co-working spaces.

The center is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. To make a reservation outside of regular hours, contact c4ei@triton.uog.edu.

For updates and more information about the program, visit url.uog/c4ei or follow C4EI on Instagram. (PR)

KUAM News expands regional reporting platform

KUAM TV signed on the air as Guam's first television station in 1956 with our slogan "The Voice of the Marianas." The broadcasting company has been a witness to history, shared community happenings and celebrations, and been there to pass on vital information during times of disaster and tragedy.

That commitment continues with expanded coverage of their neighbors in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and beyond. Regional correspon-

dent Thomas Manglona continues to report on the daily news from the CNMI and will bring exclusive one-on-one interviews with candidates for public office ahead of the CNMI general election.

KUAM TV also expanded its digital presence with an Instagram social media account dedicated to news and information from the Marianas. Follow their Instagram @kuamcnmi for the latest news, breaking stories, and interviews from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. (PR)

ON SAVARES' SELECTION AS FRIEND OF EDUCATION

Leon Guerrero, Tenorio congratulates Dededo mayor

HAGATNA, Guam—Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio congratulated Dededo Mayor Melissa Savares as the 2022 Friend of Education by the National Association of State Boards of Education.

"We join our island in extending our congratulations to Mayor Savares upon her deserved recognition as a champion of our community who

has historically empowered our children," said Leon Guerrero. "This is a source of pride for all of Guam, and a reminder that our mayors are making impactful change in their villages worthy of national respect. We are truly humbled to work alongside Mayor Savares, whom we thank for her legacy of steadfast service."

"Throughout her tenure, Mayor Savares has helped to

support youth sports teams, expand student tutoring and mentorship opportunities, recruit more foster families, and strengthen substance abuse prevention efforts," said Tenorio. "It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes a born leader to lift up the next generation. Mayor Savares is symbolic of a true public servant whose passionate contributions con-

tinue to make the lives of our children better."

The NASBE Friend of Education award is given annually to an individual or organization whose contributions to preK-12 education are significant and enduring. NASBE's full slate of awards will be presented at its Annual Conference from October 26 to 29, 2022, in Phoenix, Arizona. (PR)

UOG's Political Science Student Association to host senatorial forum

The University of Guam Political Science Student Association will be hosting its 2022 Senatorial Forum, 6pm-8pm, on Oct. 25-27, 2022, at the UOG College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Lecture Hall.

Each day will feature a set of five Democratic and five Republican senatorial candidates who will

be asked a series of questions compiled from UOG students and the general public.

Stay tuned to PSSA's social media accounts or contact the Political Science Student Association via email at pssa@triton.uog.edu or send a direct message to PSSA on Instagram @uog_pssa. (PR)

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Primary colors: What a new study tells us about the Democratic and Republican parties

One stubborn analysis of partisanship in America that goes like this: Republicans have their share of candidates on the far right and Democrats have theirs on the far left, and in primary elections, each divisively drags their respective party's center of gravity away from where most general election voters stand.

A new report shows the truth about America's two dominant political parties is far different from what this lazy shorthand suggests. Namely, GOP primary voters are quite accepting of those who want to radically recast the Party of Lincoln and Reagan, while Democratic voters more consistently reject those seeking to pull their own party much further left.

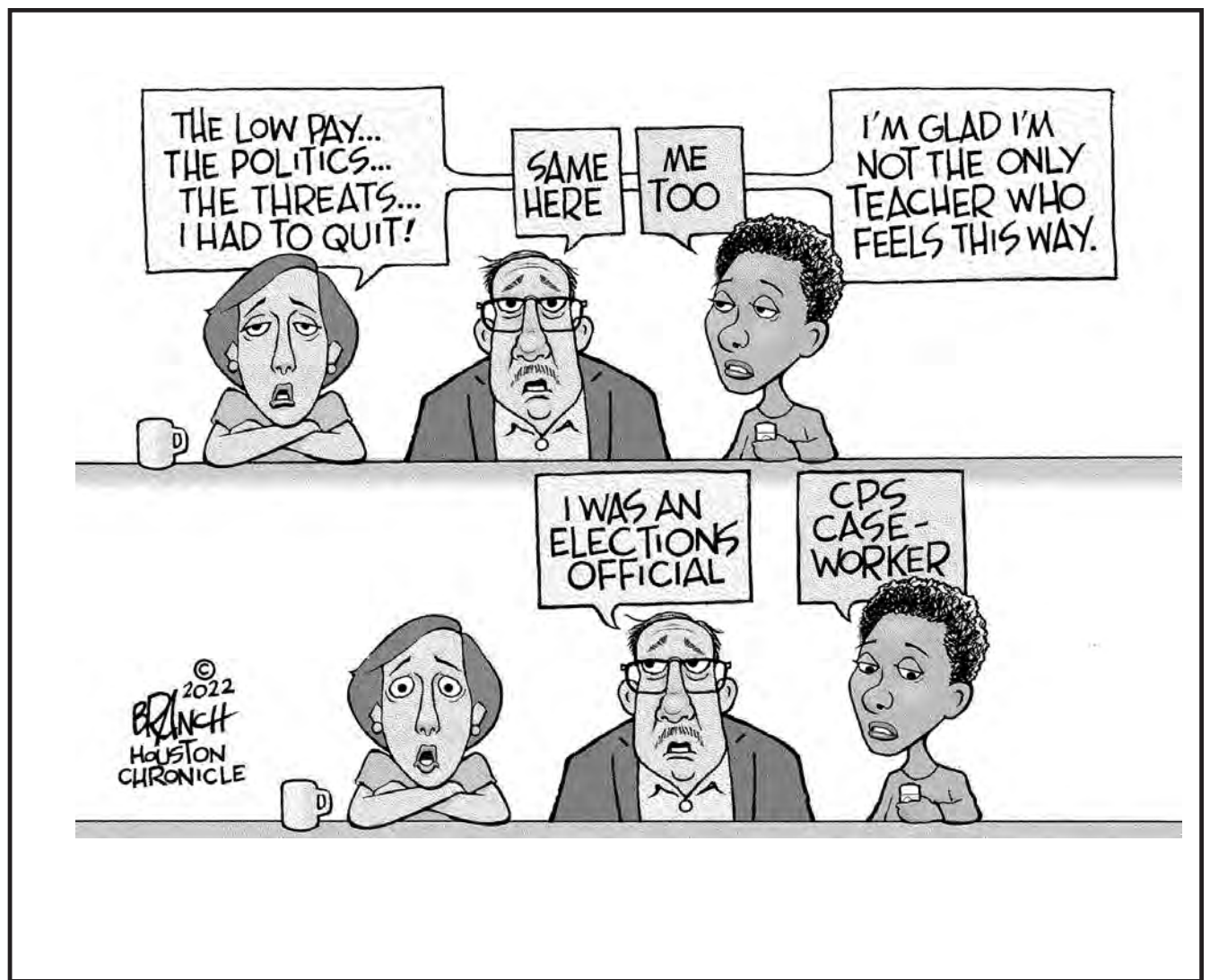
So explains Elaine Kamarck of the Brookings Institution, whose Primaries Project looked at 2,362 candidates for the House and Senate nationwide.

On the Republican side, candidates who were endorsed by Donald Trump, who were also the most virulent election deniers, were 12% of all candidates and won nearly 97% of their primaries; candidates who mentioned Trump and his movement favorably were another large chunk of candidates and also fared relatively well. Of the Republicans who strayed away from Trump and his Make America Great Again message, which made up 59% of all candidates, just 30% won their primaries.

The Democratic picture was much different. Just 5% of candidates were endorsed by Sen. Bernie Sanders, "The Squad" or a closely allied political group. A whopping 72% of candidates weren't so endorsed and shied away from talk of defunding the police, abolishing ICE, bashing "corporate Democrats" and so on. While the 55% of candidates who characterized themselves as "mainstream Democrats" and the 33% who called themselves progressives won 52% and 42% of their races respectively, the measly 1.45% who called themselves Democratic Socialists won less than half the time.

Short summary: The national Republican Party, in response to the voting base that shows up on primary day, in many respects remains captive to Donald Trump. There's no sane contrary claim that the Democratic bus is being driven by people far outside the American mainstream.

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Will vaccine fatigue affect how many people get the bivalent booster?

By **SHELDON JACOBSON** and **JANET JOKELA**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Pfizer's and Moderna's bivalent boosters, which are now available to many age groups, offer protection against the original COVID-19 virus plus the BA.4 and BA.5 omicron subvariants. Is the nation ready for yet another COVID-19 vaccine shot?

Given that many people have already received a vaccine series and booster, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention deftly created step-by-step guidelines, including an easy-to-follow flow chart, on what people should do if they wish to add a bivalent booster to their personal arsenal of protection.

Do people have sufficient trust to get yet another shot? Testing of the bivalent boosters was done primarily on animals, not people, though there is no reason to believe that they are unsafe. What remains less clear is their potential effectiveness in the field.

Vaccine uptake has been persistently dropping, as many have become vaccine-fatigued. Though the number of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths continue to be somewhat high, they have declined over the past two months and continue to show an encouraging downward trend.

At the same time, most people have adapted to the new normal of living with the virus, accepting the risks of infection and the associated health outcomes. Some continue to wear face masks and limit their exposure to high-risk environments.

The best way to assess how the new boosters may be accepted is by focusing on the most at-risk people, those 65 years old and older. They are most vulnerable to severe COVID-19 and the risk of hospitalization and death.

More than 92% people in this age group in the U.S. have received a complete vaccine and are classified as fully vaccinated. At least 70% have received their first booster, and more than 41% have received their second booster, according to the CDC.

Some of these people may have not taken their second booster in anticipation of an omicron-specific booster. However, the downward trend in vaccine uptake suggests that getting these people vaccinated with the new omicron-specific booster will be an uphill battle.

The vaccine uptake numbers drop for younger groups. For example, only about a third of people 50 to 64 years old have gotten their second booster, CDC data shows.

The White House has indicated that an annual COVID-19 vaccine is likely to be needed, given how the virus continues to mutate. Such mutations are already happening today, as the proportion of each subvariant circulating continues to evolve. The BA.5 omicron subvariant has been dominant since mid-June. More recently, the BA.4.6 subvariant has established a growing presence in the population. Will the new booster provide adequate protection against this subvariant if it becomes the dominant circulating virus?

To further exacerbate the situation, the annual flu vaccine is now available just as the new bivalent boosters are being rolled out. It remains unclear how the simultaneous availability of two vaccines will affect people's willingness to receive both.

The most pressing challenge now is not whether boosters will provide the best protection available against COVID-19, but rather pervasive vaccine fatigue and questions of trust. Those who have stayed up to date on vaccinations over the past two years have received five COVID-19 shots and two flu shots. People are still getting a tetanus shot every 10 years, and for those older than 50, the two-dose shingles shot. Shot overload for some is real.

Then there are those who remain vaccine-resistant. If they have survived COVID-19 infections so far without vaccination, they are far less likely to receive a vaccine now. Moreover, for them to get the new booster would require receiving a primary vaccine series, which such people have demonstrated an unwillingness to take. Is such an obstacle really necessary—requiring the primary vaccine series to qualify for the bivalent booster?

Welcome to the new normal of living with a novel virus. The one bright light over the past eight months is that the omicron virus has remained somewhat stable, though subvariants have emerged. Other new variants, however, remain a possibility.

For the time being, new vaccines will continue to be developed, and everyone will be given the opportunity to be vaccinated. How many will avail themselves of this opportunity is uncertain.

The data suggests that many will continue to be cautious, taking a wait-and-see approach.

Sheldon Jacobson is a professor of computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Janet A. Jokela is senior associate dean in the Carle Illinois College of Medicine at the U. of I. She is an infectious disease and public health physician.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How the ‘green revolution’ will hurt Pacific Islander civilizations

Much of the world has been touting the need to “go green” when it comes to energy production and how we harness, distribute and consume energy. Individuals, families, businesses, and governments have been focused on how to move forward looking for ways to live that produce and emit less overall pollution and carbon into the Earth’s atmosphere. Communities throughout the world continue to discuss ways in which they can help contribute toward more effective environmental stewardship.

Global warming has driven the world’s desire to go green when it comes to energy production and consumption. Global warming is a result of emissions produced by major industrialized countries such as the United States, China, India, Brazil, and Germany.

One key assumption about the global warming debate is that the planet’s demise is mainly focused on things at or above sea level. Peoples of and from Pacific Island civilizations are forced recipients of industrial nation mayhem, not the producers of this mayhem.

Pacific Islander civilizations remain intrinsically tied to the ocean at the water line, below the water line, and down to the seafloor and we have been for millennia.

Pacific Islanders have contributed the least toward global warming and the overall warming of the oceans. Our Deep Blue continental civilizations have contributed the least to ocean acidification. Yet as a collective, Pacific Islander civilizations continue to suffer the most when it comes to how our isles are damaged from rising sea levels and warming sea temperatures.

The green energy propositions

The green energy proposition espoused by first nation industrial superpowers such as the United States remains incomplete and illusive. Clean green energy depends in part on finding, extracting, and consuming rare earth minerals and materials in order to pro-

duce the componentry that go toward manufacturing and powering new technologies such as electric cars to help reverse carbon emissions production. Much of the world’s rare metals are found on land, yet the destruction and political concerns associated with extracting land-based rare metals is prohibitive and complicated.

A central source location for necessary raw materials and rare minerals required for car batteries for example, is found on the seafloor of our Deep Blue Pacific Ocean continent.

Regions throughout our Deep Blue Pacific Ocean continent have been identified as zones to be mined for minerals by the amorphous International Seabed Authority with ties to the United Nations. A variety of rich nations, poor nations, and select for-profit firms are reported to be given exclusive rights to mine our Pacific Ocean floor within identified sub-zones that are sectioned off by country.

Our Deep Blue Pacific Ocean continent has millions of tons of seabed-located metallic nodules that contain metals such as cobalt, copper, battery grade nickel, manganese, lithium, and yttrium. Close to 2 million miles of seabed in our Deep Blue Pacific Ocean continent contain these metallic nodules.

Our Pacific Islander civilizations are not benefitting from the decisions made by this International Seabed Authority. Trillions of dollars, not billions, are at stake over the next several decades because of the future energy needs of millions of people across the planet.

Questions to ask

How many times have outside parties interested in mining our seafloor near our Mariana Islands or Micronesia approached and asked permission of our Chamorro people to mine the ocean’s bottom? How many times have outside for-profit parties and first-world nations, interested in mining near Pacific Islander civilizations in Micronesia, approached us and asked permission to mine the seafloor for rare raw materials? If the answers are

RICK’S COLUMN

By **RICK ARRIOLA PEREZ**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rick Arriola Perez is a U.S. military veteran who has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bank of Hawaii, and the government of Guam. He holds several degrees including ones from University of California Los Angeles and the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Rick is passionate about national security and foreign affairs in the Pacific Asia region and runs a blogsite called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For more information, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

“never,” then we might be able to conclude that our Deep Blue Pacific Ocean continent is being exploited.

Living oceans disappearing

The sea creatures and ocean life that live on these modules will disappear if seafloor mining begins. Marine life living throughout mining areas will be devastated from seafloor scarring that constitute one of several long-term destructive consequences of exploiting the Deep Blue Pacific Ocean seafloor. The underwater plumes that will be produced from excavation will damage, disrupt, and destroy fragile ecosystems due to seafloor sediment traveling miles in all directions. Ancient coral formations existing in our Deep Blue Pacific Ocean continent seafloor and these resources will be destroyed.

There is much work to do to better understand the nature of seafloor mining and its implications for Deep Blue Pacific Islander civilizations such as ours. Now is the time to start.

A history of the ‘Big Lie,’ from Plato to TikTok

A long time ago, a respected social critic expressed concern that a new medium would lead to lying.

The year was 375 BCE, the critic was Plato and the still relatively new medium was the written word, which, despite his many reservations, he used to circulate his oral dialogues with Socrates.

Today, we’re again worried about the power of new media to facilitate lying. This time, it’s the internet, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok. But if you look back at history, lying is as old as humans (older really, since some animals practice deception). And every advance in communication down through history has facilitated it.

Plato, though he was concerned about the written word, wasn’t actually opposed to lying under all circumstances. In fact, he believed societies needed what he called “a grand lie,” a deception intentionally spun to serve a civic purpose, a great national myth that would help forge a nation’s identity.

The myth we believed for so long about George Washington and the cherry tree is an example of the Platonic grand lie. In the early years of the country, the United States felt the need for good founding lies and Washington, the tall, well-spoken, heroic founding father seemed the perfect subject.

In the sixth edition of his Washington biography in 1806, author Mason Locke Weems described young George chopping down a cherry tree and confessing to his father, “I cannot tell a lie.” But this parable on lying was itself a lie. It remained popular for generations, and ultimately outlived the book.

The printing press, invented in the 15th century, helped spread lies too, just as the written word had. After the English Civil War in the 17th century, lies defaming Oliver Cromwell kept the presses busy. In 1665, a fake cookbook, supposedly by Cromwell’s wife but full of fraudulent attacks on her husband, was published. The lying cookbook was invented.

One of the most successful examples of lying in print was a pamphlet first circulated in Russia in 1905. It was so clumsily written and so obviously untrue that it should have died quickly. Instead “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” has been translated into many languages, is still being published and is widely available on social media today.

The “Protocols” claimed to be the stolen notes of a meeting of a secret organization of Jewish leaders conspiring to take over

the world. There never was such a meeting because there never was such an organization. That the “Protocols” still survives proves the durability of unconvincing lies and the utter unoriginality of today’s liars.

With the growth of newspapers, new opportunities for lying emerged. Now a liar needed only to convince a reporter in order to spread a lie to a mass audience. At the beginning of World War I in August 1914, the French spread false reports of atrocities in German-occupied Belgium to motivate allied soldiers. A London Times correspondent reported that a German soldier had “chopped off the arms of a baby which clung to his mother’s skirts.”

Several subsequent inquiries failed to produce any evidence that such atrocities ever occurred.

Between 1928 and 1933, failed Soviet policies caused millions to die of famine in Ukraine. Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty reported, “There is no famine or starvation, nor is there likely to be.” Malcolm Muggeridge, a seasoned journalist also covering the tragedy, later characterized Duranty as “the greatest liar of any journalist I have met in 50 years of journalism.”

The Soviets tried to conceal the Ukraine tragedy by a lying technique known as “the Potemkin village.” A Potemkin village was a staged scene of prosperity for invited viewers. The respected French leader Edouard Herriot arranged a fact-finding mission to the Ukraine. On the day before his arrival, peasants were made to clean the streets and decorate the houses. Shop windows were filled with food, but the locals were not allowed to buy it or even to press too close to the windows.

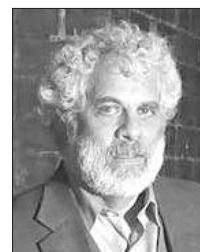
There have also been American Potemkin villages. American cities have had paper constructions and lighting to make slums look better for sporting events.

The whole idea of a Potemkin village, by the way, is a lie itself. Gregory Potemkin, a government minister and lover to 18th century Russian Empress Catherine II, allegedly built prosperous fake villages to make the countryside appear more affluent for the empress’ 1787 boat tour of the Crimea. As it turned out, however, a Finnish diplomat and a Saxon one invented these stories to make it seem like the Russians were desperately covering up their failures.

Radio was a big step forward for lying. Father Charles Cough-

By MARK KURLANSKY

Los Angeles Times



Mark Kurlansky is the author of Big Lies: From Socrates to Social Media, which will be published on Sept. 27.

lin, a Catholic priest in Michigan whose antisemitic radio broadcasts were extremely popular in 1930s America, referred to the “Protocols” as evidence of a Jewish conspiracy. Coughlin was a pioneer in talk radio, spewing out lies on the radio with no one to contradict him.

But the great master of radio lying was Hitler’s propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels. “It would not have been possible for us to take power or to use it in the ways we have without the radio,” he once said. He distributed radios to the public. Having one of these official radios was a sign of being a good Nazi, not only because they were decorated with swastikas, but because they were only capable of picking up Nazi Party frequencies.

But all sides were using the radio to get their stories out. In 1945, as World War II ended, Alexandre Koyré, a French philosopher and science historian, commented, “Never has there been so much lying as in our day. Never has lying been so shameless, so systematic, so unceasing.”






The exact same thing is being said today about the rise of social media. But there are differences now.

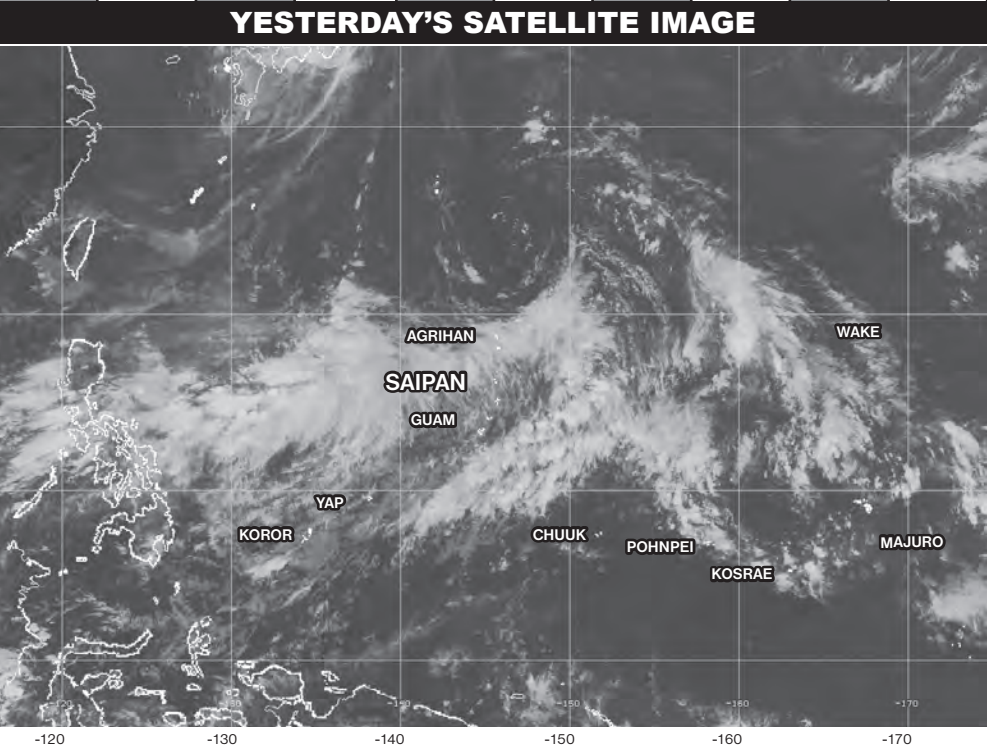
Social media celebrates amateurism. Any idiot can weigh in.

And it’s easy to use effectively. Donald Trump can put out an immense volume of lies on his own and dispatch them to tens of millions of people in a moment. Goebbels required a staff of nearly 1,000 professional liars.

And there is something else: Only a small portion of listeners believe a lie when they hear it. If you lie to 100 people you might get two or three believers, and if you lie to thousands, you might get hundreds. So what happens when you lie to millions on the internet?

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	88°	76°	88°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 8:20 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler radar this morning shows scattered shower and isolated storms across the Marianas, with about half an inch of rain reported across Guam and closer to an inch up in Saipan. combined seas between 5 and 7 feet are being reported by Ritidian and Tanapag buoys, and this matches well with satellite altimetry.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Palau	Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:00 AM	2:29 PM	-
Wednesday	1:52 AM	3:16 PM	-
Thursday	2:45 AM	3:59 PM	-
Friday	3:37 AM	4:39 PM	-
Saturday	4:28 AM	5:17 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Rain	66° / 56°	
Beijing	Sunny	80° / 53°	
Hong Kong	Isolated Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 76°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	67° / 49°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	79° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 68°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	74° / 64°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	66° / 47°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	72° / 62°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81° / 59°	
Salem	Sunny	88° / 65°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	76° / 54°	
Tokyo	Showers/Wind	81° / 63°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	88° / 67°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:40 AM	High Tide	1.42	
9:41 AM	Low Tide	0.23	
5:33 PM	High Tide	1.67	
11:06 PM	Low Tide	1.22	

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-NARITA				NARITA-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
				TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
				TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T*Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

How the strong US dollar can affect everyone

By **STAN CHOE**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The buck isn't stopping.

The value of the U.S. dollar has been on a tear for more than a year against everything from the British pound across the Atlantic to the South Korean won across the Pacific.

After rising again Friday, the dollar is near its highest level in more than two decades against a key index measuring six major currencies, including the euro and Japanese yen. Many professional investors don't expect it to ease off anytime soon.

The dollar's rise affects nearly everyone, even those who will never leave the U.S. borders. Here's a look at what's driving the U.S. dollar higher and what it can mean for investors and households:

What does it mean to say the dollar is stronger?

Essentially that one dollar can buy more of another currency than it could before.

Consider the Japanese yen. A year ago, \$1 could get a little less than 110 yen. Now, it can buy 143. That's about 30% more and one of the biggest moves the U.S. dollar has made against another currency.

Foreign currency values are constantly shifting against each other as banks, businesses and traders buy and sell them in time zones around the world.

The U.S. Dollar index, which measures the dollar against the euro, yen and other major currencies, has climbed more than 14% this year. The

gain looks even more impressive compared against other investments, most of which have had a dismal year. U.S. stocks are down more than 19%, bitcoin has more than halved and gold has lost more than 7%.

Why is the dollar strengthening?

Because the U.S. economy is doing better than others.

Even though inflation is high, the U.S. job market has remained remarkably solid. And other areas of the economy, such as the services sector, have been resilient.

That's helped offset worries about a slowing housing industry and other parts of the economy that do best when interest rates are low. That in turn has traders expecting the Federal Reserve to follow through on its promise to keep hiking interest rates sharply, and to hold them there a while, in hopes of knocking down the worst inflation in 40 years.

Such expectations have helped the yield of a 10-year Treasury more than double to 3.44% from roughly 1.33% a year ago.

Who cares about bond yields?

Investors who want to make more income off their money. And those juicier U.S. yields are drawing investors from all over the world.

Other central banks have been less aggressive than the Fed because their economies seem to be more fragile. The European Central Bank just raised its key rate by the largest amount ever, three-quar-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The value of the U.S. dollar has been on a tear for more than a year against everything from the British pound across the Atlantic to the South Korean won across the Pacific.

ters of a percentage point. But the Fed has already raised its key rate by that amount twice this year, with a third expected this upcoming week. Some traders even say a gargantuan hike of a full percentage point could be possible, following a hotter-than-expected report on U.S. inflation Tuesday.

Partly because of that less aggressive bent, 10-year bonds across Europe and other areas of the world offer much lower yields than U.S. Treasury's, such as Germany's 1.75% and Japan's 0.25%. When investors from Asia and Europe buy Treasury's, they have to trade their own currencies for U.S. dollars. That pushes up the dollar's value.

A strong dollar helps US tourists, right?

Yes. U.S. travelers in Tokyo spending 10,000 yen on dinner will be using 23% fewer dollars than a year ago for the same-priced meal.

With the dollar up sharply so far this year against every-

thing from the Argentine peso to the Egyptian pound to the South Korean won, the dollar is going further in many countries than before.

Does it help only rich people who can afford to travel abroad?

No. A stronger dollar also helps U.S. shoppers by keeping a lid on prices for imports and pushing downward on inflation.

When the dollar is rising against the euro, for example, European companies make more euros on each \$1 of sales. With that cushion, they could cut the dollar price for their products and still make the same amount of euros. They could also leave the price in dollars alone and pocket the extra euros, or they could find some balance of the two.

Prices for imports fell 1% in August from a month earlier, following July's 1.5% drop, offering some relief amid the nation's high inflation. Prices for imported fruits, nuts and

some peels dropped 8.7%, for example. They're down 3% from a year earlier.

A stronger dollar can keep prices in check for commodities generally. That's because oil, gold and others are bought and sold in U.S. dollars around the world. When the dollar rises against the yen, a Japanese buyer can get fewer barrels of crude for the same number of yen as before. That can mean less upward pressure on oil prices.

So there are only winners from a strong dollar?

No. U.S. companies that sell abroad are seeing their profits get squeezed.

At McDonald's, revenue fell 3% during the summer from a year earlier. But if the dollar's value had simply stayed put against other currencies, the company's revenue would have been 3% higher. Microsoft, meanwhile, said changes in foreign-currency values sliced \$595 million off its rev-

enue in the latest quarter.

A string of other companies have given similar warnings recently, and further gains for the dollar could add more pressure on profits. Companies in the S&P 500 index get roughly 40% of their revenue from outside the United States, according to FactSet.

Any other collateral damage?

A strong dollar can put a financial squeeze across the developing world. Many companies and governments in such emerging markets borrow money in U.S.-dollar terms, instead of in their own currencies. When they must repay their debts in U.S. dollars, while their own currencies buy fewer dollars by the day, it can create lots of stress.

Where's the dollar heading from here?

The dollar's biggest moves may be behind it, but many professionals expect the dollar to at least stay this high a while.

Tuesday's report on U.S. inflation shocked the market and showed it remains more stubborn than expected. That has traders upping bets for Fed rate hikes going into next year. Fed officials have been busy recently reaffirming their commitment to keeping rates high "until the job is done" in breaking the nation's high inflation, even if it damages economic growth.

That bias toward still-higher rates by the Fed should continue to offer support for the value of the U.S. dollar.

For the dollar to weaken meaningfully, strategists wrote in a BofA Global Research report, "the Fed has to get more concerned about growth than inflation—and we are not there yet."

Royal fans give London tourism a bump amid UK economic woes

LONDON (AP)—Royal fans have poured into the heart of London to experience the flag-lined roads, pomp-filled processions and, above all, brave a milelong line for the once-in-a-lifetime chance to bid adieu to Queen Elizabeth II, who died after an unprecedented seven decades on the throne. And while they're here, they're packing hotels, restaurants and shops.

Visitors crowding into central London from as far away as the U.S. and India for the historic moment are giving a boost to businesses at a time when the British economy is facing a cost-of-living crisis fueled by the highest inflation in four decades and predictions of a looming recession.

"This is the history, you know, this happens once in the lifetime," said Kanakkantt Benedict, who was visiting from India with his wife and filed past the queen's flag-draped coffin this week. "So we became a part of it."

The pomp and pageantry leading up to the funeral for Britain's longest-reigning monarch underscored the royal family's power as a global attraction, from an elaborate military procession for her crown-topped coffin drawing live viewers around the world to piles of flowers filling up Green Park near Buckingham Palace and gift shops hastily churning out souvenirs commemorating the queen's life as people clamor for mementos.

It's tapped: Germany's Oktoberfest opens after 2-year hiatus

MUNICH (AP)—The beer is flowing at Munich's world-famous Oktoberfest for the first time since 2019.

With three knocks of a hammer and the traditional cry of "O'zapft is"—"It's tapped"—Mayor Dieter Reiter inserted the tap in the first keg at noon on Saturday, officially opening the festivities after a two-year break forced by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Oktoberfest has typically drawn about 6 million visitors every year to packed festival grounds in Bavaria's capital. The event did not take place in 2020 and 2021 as authorities grappled with the unpredictable development of COVID-19 in-



Young people reach out for free beer in one of the beer tents at the opening day of the 187th Oktoberfest beer festival in Munich, Germany, Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022.

AP

fections and restrictions.

Those worries were put aside this year. The city announced in late April that Ok-

toberfest would go ahead, and Reiter said Saturday that "it was a good decision."

"I'm glad that we can finally celebrate together," Bavarian governor Markus Soeder said at the opening ceremony. "There are many who say, 'Can we, can we not? Is it appropriate now?' I just want to say one thing: We have two or three difficult years behind us, no one knows exactly what this winter will be like, and we need joie de vivre and strength."

Three hours before Reiter tapped the first keg, revelers rushed to secure seats in the huge beer tents as the gates to the festival opened.

Nation

‘US would defend Taiwan against Chinese invasion’

BEIJING (AP)—President Joe Biden says U.S. forces would defend Taiwan if China tries to invade the self-ruled island claimed by Beijing as part of its territory, adding to displays of official American support for the island democracy.

Biden said “yes” when asked during an interview broadcast Sunday on CBS News’s “60 Minutes” program whether “U.S. forces, U.S. men and women, would defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion.”

CBS News reported the White House said after the interview U.S. policy hasn’t changed. That policy says Washington wants to see Taiwan’s status resolved peacefully but doesn’t say whether U.S. forces might be sent in response to a Chinese attack.

Tension is rising following efforts by Chinese President Xi Jinping’s government to intimidate Taiwan by firing missiles into the nearby sea and flying fighter jets near-



AP
U.S. President Joe Biden waves as first lady Jill Biden watches standing at the top of the steps of Air Force One before boarding at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022.

by and visits to Taipei by political figures including

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Taiwan’s foreign ministry on Monday expressed “sin-

cer gratitude” to Biden for

“affirming the U.S. government’s rock-solid promise of security to Taiwan.”

Taiwan will “resist authoritarian expansion and aggression” and “deepen the close security partnership” with Washington and other governments “with similar thinking” to protect regional

stability, the statement said. Washington is obligated by federal law to see that Taiwan has the means to defend itself but doesn’t say whether U.S. forces would be sent. The United States has no formal relations with the island but maintains informal diplomatic ties.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war that ended with the Communist Party in control of the mainland. The two governments say they are one country but dispute which is entitled to be the national leader.

Beijing criticizes official foreign contact with Taiwan’s elected government as encouragement to make its de facto independence permanent, a step the mainland says would lead to war.

Washington says it doesn’t support formal independence for Taiwan, a stance Biden repeated in the interview broadcast Sunday.

“Taiwan makes their own judgments about their independence,” the president said. “We’re not encouraging their being independent.”

In May, Biden said “yes” when asked at a news conference in Tokyo whether he was willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if China invaded.

Bidens among thousands paying respects to Queen Elizabeth II

LONDON (AP)—U.S. President Joe Biden paid his respects at Queen Elizabeth II’s coffin on Sunday as thousands of police, hundreds of British troops and an army of officials made final preparations for the queen’s state funeral—a spectacular display of national mourning that will also be the biggest gathering of world leaders for years.

People across Britain paused for a minute of silence

at 8 p.m. in memory of the only monarch most have ever known. At Westminster Hall, where the queen is lying in state, the constant stream of mourners paused for 60 seconds as people observed the minute of reflection in deep silence.

In Windsor, where the queen will be laid to rest on Monday evening after her funeral at Westminster Abbey, rain began to fall as the crowd

fell silent for the moment of reflection. Some have set up small camps and chairs outside Windsor Castle, with plans to spend the night there to reserve the best spots to view the queen’s coffin when it arrives.

“Well, it’s just one night and day of our lives. Elizabeth gave us—you know—70 years. So the rest of it is not a lot to ask, is it?” said Fred Sweeney, 52, who kitted out

his spot with two Union flags on large flag poles.

Biden and first lady Jill Biden were among thousands of mourners—from locals and tourists to royals and world leaders—to pay their respects. The president made the sign of the cross and put his hand to his heart as he stood quietly near the casket in the ornate 900-year-old hall with his wife and U.S. Ambassador Jane Hartley.

Flood waters receding after storm batters western Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Floodwaters were receding in parts of western Alaska battered by the worst storm in a half century, leaving behind debris flung by powerful Bering Sea waves into beaches and seaside communities.

The remnants of Typhoon Merbok were weakening Sunday as the storm system moved north from the Bering Strait into the Chukchi Sea on Alaska’s northwest coast, where it still threatens smaller communities, said National Weather Service meteorologist Kaitlyn Lardeo.

“This guy is going to hang out in the Chukchi Sea for the next few days and just rapidly weaken because it’s so stationary,” she said.

Several communities reported homes were knocked off their foundations by the force of the incoming water, often propelled by winds gusting near 70



AP
A home that was knocked off its foundation and floated down Snake River during a severe storm in Nome, Alaska, is caught under a bridge Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022.

miles per hour (113 kilometers per hour). One house in Nome floated down a river until it got

caught under a bridge.

Many homes were flooded and about 450 residents on the

western coast sought refuge in shelters, with more than half of them at a school in Hooper Bay, where they ate processed moose donated by village residents. Others rode out the storm on higher ground outside their communities.

It was a massive storm system—big enough to cover the mainland U.S. from the Pacific Ocean to Nebraska and from Canada to Texas. It influenced weather systems as far away as California, where a rare late-summer storm dropped rain on the northern part of the state, offering a measure of relief to wildfire crews but also complicating fire suppression efforts because of mud and loosened earth.

The storm’s crashing waves caused widespread flooding and damage along 1,000 miles (1,609 kilometers) of the Alaska coastline, Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Suspect seriously hurt when train hits parked police vehicle

PLATTEVILLE, Colo. (AP)—A 20-year-old road rage suspect was seriously injured when the parked police patrol vehicle she was detained in was struck by a freight train in northern Colorado. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation says multiple law enforcement agencies responded to a report of a road rage incident involving a firearm in Fort Lupton on Friday evening. A Platteville police officer stopped the woman’s car just past a set of railroad tracks and parked the patrol vehicle on the crossing. The Greeley woman was placed in the back of the police vehicle, which was hit by the train as officers were searching her car. The suspect name and details of her injuries have not been released. The Fort Lupton Police Department is investigating the road rage report, while the Colorado State Patrol is investigating the crash. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is looking into the woman’s in-

jury while she was in police custody.

Trial to start for sailor accused of igniting Navy warship

SAN DIEGO (AP)—According to prosecutors, Ryan Sawyer Mays was a young, arrogant sailor angry about being assigned to deck duty after failing to become a Navy SEAL—and he made the Navy pay in a big way. But the prosecution has presented no physical evidence proving that Mays, 21, set the USS Bonhomme Richard on fire, a fact defense lawyers plan to highlight at the sailor’s court martial that is scheduled to start Monday at Naval Base San Diego. The July 2020 blaze burned for nearly five days and sent an acrid smoke over San Diego, damaging the amphibious assault ship so badly that it had to be scuttled. It marked one of the worst noncombat warship disasters in recent memory. Mays is charged with aggravated arson and the willful hazarding of a vessel. He has denied any wrongdoing.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Gunmen kill 3 soldiers in southern Philippine attack

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen killed three soldiers in an ambush in the southern Philippines on Thursday in violence that coincided with the president's visit to the region to pledge support for a 2014 peace deal with Muslim rebels that has eased decades of fighting. There was no indication the attack on the soldiers in the island province of Basilan was connected to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s attendance at a ceremony with former Muslim rebel leaders in another southern province. But the midday killings underscored the complex security issues the newly elected leader faces. A group of soldiers was walking to replace other troops ending their work shift at an outpost in Al-Barka town in Basilan when about seven men opened fire and killed three of them, provincial military commander Brig. Gen. Domingo Gobway said.

Bus for COVID-19 quarantine in China crashes, killing 27

BEIJING (AP)—A bus reportedly taking 47 people to COVID-19 quarantine in southwest China crashed before dawn Sunday morning, killing 27 and injuring 20 others, media said. The bus overturned on an expressway in Guizhou province, a brief statement from the Sandu county police said, without mentioning any connection to quarantine. The injured were being treated, it said. Chinese business news outlet Caixin said Sandu officials confirmed the passengers were "epidemic-related people" being taken from Guiyang, the provincial capital, to Lido county, which is about 200 kilometers (125 miles) southeast. Guiyang reported about 180 new cases on Friday.

Hurricane Fiona rips through powerless Puerto Rico

HAVANA (AP)—Hurricane Fiona struck Puerto Rico's southwest coast on Sunday as it unleashed landslides, knocked the power grid out and ripped up asphalt from roads and flung the pieces around. Hundreds of people were evacuated or rescued across the island as floodwaters rose swiftly. Rushing rivers of brown water enveloped cars, first floors and even an airport runway in the island's southern region.

Forecasters said the storm threatened to dump "historic" levels of rain on Sunday and Monday, with up to 30 inches (76 centimeters) possible in eastern and southern Puerto Rico. "The damages that we are seeing are catastrophic," said Gov. Pedro Pierluisi. The storm washed away a bridge in the central mountain town of Utuado that police say was installed by the National Guard after Hurricane Maria hit in 2017.

Storm hits southwest Japan, leaves 1 dead, another missing

TOKYO (AP)—A tropical storm slammed southwestern Japan with rainfall and winds Monday, leaving one person dead and another missing, as it swerved north toward Tokyo. Residential streets were flooded with muddy water from rivers, and swathes of homes lost power after Typhoon Nanmadol made landfall in the Kyushu region Sunday then weakened to a tropical storm. A man was found dead early Monday in his car that was sunk in water on a farm, said Yoshiharu Maeda, a city hall official in charge of disasters at Miyakonojo, Miyazaki prefecture. Separately, one person was missing after a cottage was caught in a landslide, according to a Miyazaki prefectural official. Nanmadol has sustained winds blowing at 108 kilometers per hour (67 mph) and gusts up to 162 kilometers (100 miles) per hour, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. Tens of thousands of people spent the night at gymnasiums and other facilities in a precautionary evacuation of vulnerable homes.

Iran police fire tear gas at protest over death in custody

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian police fired tear gas to disperse a protest in the western, mainly Kurdish city of Sanandaj, where hundreds rallied to decry the death of a young woman while in police custody in Tehran last week, reports said. The case of the 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was detained last Tuesday after Iran's so-called "morality police" found fault with her headscarf, or hijab, has set off a public outcry in the country, mainly on social media. Police said she died of a heart attack and have denied any allegations of torture or abuse. The semiofficial Fars news agency reported late Sunday that police also arrested several people from about 500 protesters who had gathered on Sunday at Azadi Square in Sanandaj, the capital of Iran's Kurdistan province. Fars said the protesters smashed car windows and set fire to street garbage cans. The agency's website carried a brief video showing scores of men and women protesting, claiming the police's explanation about Amini's death was "not reasonable."

Britain and the world to lay Queen Elizabeth II to rest

LONDON (AP)—Britain and the world are laying Queen Elizabeth II to rest on Monday at a state funeral that will draw presidents and kings, princes and prime ministers as well as up to a million people lining the streets of London to say a final goodbye to a monarch whose 70-year reign defined an age. A day packed

with funeral events in London and Windsor began early when the doors of 900-year-old Westminster Hall were closed to mourners after hundreds of thousands had filed in front of her coffin since Sept. 14. Many of them had spent cold nights outdoors to pay their respects at the foot of the queen's flag-draped coffin in a moving outpouring of national grief. The closing of the hall marked the end of four full days of the coffin lying in state and the start of the U.K.'s first state funeral since the one held in 1965 for Winston Churchill, the first of 15 prime ministers during Elizabeth's reign. Two days before her Sept. 8 death at her Balmoral summer retreat, the queen appointed her last prime minister, Liz Truss. Among the last mourners to join the line to see the coffin was Tracy Dobson from Hertfordshire, just north of London.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

† *Rita Quitano Camacho*

Lovingly known as "Ritan Vidad"
February 01, 1951 – September 12, 2022

In her New Life, Rita is greeted at the heavenly gate by her:

Parents: †Vidal Acosta and
†Justa Roberto Quitano Camacho
Reared Parents: †Pedro Dela Torres
and Elena Roberto Quitano Sablan
Grandparents: †Mariano Palacios
and †Valeriana Acosta Palacios
†Manuel Concepcion and †Rita Roberto Quitano
Brother and In-Law: †Dr. Manuel Quitano Sablan,
†Ernest Mangarero Sablan
Nephews: †Eric Ignacio Camacho Sablan,
†Martin Basa Camacho,
and †Joseph Cepeda Camacho
Niece: †Verena Tudela Cabrera

*Her generous spirit, kind, and giving heart will
forever be cherished by her brothers and sisters:*

-**Magdalena** Barcinas Sablan, and family
-**Margaret** Sablan McQuay, and family
-**Vicente** Quitano and Erica Vigas Camacho, and family
-**George** Quitano Camacho and Lydia Santos Sablan, and family
-**Juan** Quitano and Luisa Cepeda Camacho, and family
-**Ronald** Camacho and Rosie Roberto, and family
-**Ellen** Quitano Camacho and Stanly Techur
-**Manuel** Quitano Camacho, and family
-**Emerita** Quitano Camacho

She will also be dearly missed by her many aunties, uncles, cousins, nieces,
nephews, godchildren, relatives, and dear friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions for the repose soul is celebrated at 6:00am at the
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral and Kristo Rai Parish Church.

Rita will be with us for the last time on Friday, September 23, 2022.
Responso and public viewing will commence at 8:00am to 10:00am
at Kristo Rai Parish Church followed by Mass of Christian Burial.

Rite of Committal will be held at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

Please Join us in Prayers. Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and May God bless us all!

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF
†VIDAL ACOSTA AND †JUSTA QUITANO CAMACHO

Overdrive

DETROIT (AP)—When it came time to showcase its electric Chevrolet Equinox SUV to the public this year, General Motors decided against doing so at the big Detroit auto show, as it typically would have done in the past. Instead, it unveiled the Equinox six days earlier.

GM's decision symbolized just how much smaller this year's auto show will be, with few new model debuts, less-glitz displays, fewer journalists and possibly lower attendance.

Though the pandemic is partly to blame, larger forces are at play, too: Automakers have figured out that new models can make a bigger splash when they're unveiled to a digital audience on a day where they don't have to share the spotlight with their rivals. Not to mention that making a debut at an auto show can be hugely expensive.

So despite moving the show from January to balmy September and adding outdoor events, the North American International Auto Show won't be the glitzy event it was the last time it was held in chilly January, more than three years ago.

"The industry has changed—the world has changed," said Karl Zimmermann, vice president of the Detroit Auto Dealers Association, which runs the show. "Do I think it's going to be the same as it was before? No. It's a much different format. We're using indoors. We're using outdoors."

This year's show will be geared more toward consumers and less toward the industry. General Motors and Volkswagen will offer test drives. There will be ride-alongs in new electric vehicles from Ford and others.

"I think that's the likely track of the future—more consumer-focused than industry-focused, because the consumers don't need all the the fanfare," said



A less-glitz Detroit auto show returns after 3-year absence

Jeff Schuster, president of global forecasting for LMC Automotive, a Detroit-area consulting firm. "They can essentially have it look like a showroom."

Gone from Detroit's Huntington Place convention center are the elaborate multi-story displays that cost millions and took months to construct. There won't be any attention-grabbing stunts, like driving cars up steps and through the front doors or an ice rink with figure skaters. Though many automakers, including some from Europe and Asia, decided not to attend, area dealers stepped in with displays for their brands.

Instead of around 50 new model debuts as in past years, there's only one truly new one: The Ford Mustang, unveiled Wednesday night at a big outdoor event along the Detroit River attended by about 3,000 Mustang enthusiasts and Ford employees.

Instead of the usual 5,000 journalists, only about 1,900 received credentials this year.

The seventh-generation Mustang, which goes on sale next summer, may well be the last gas-powered version of the muscle car as Ford powers more of its lineup with batteries. The company plans for half of its global production to be electric by 2030.

The new Mustang is built on the same underpinnings as generation six. But it gets an all-new look inside and out with a revamped 5-liter V8 in the GT and a new 2.3-liter turbocharged four for lower trim lines.

The V8's up to 500 horsepower tops any other Mustang engine, and the four-cylinder will be more efficient than its predecessor.

The company wouldn't say whether the next generation would be electric, but Khan said Ford can meet government fuel economy requirements for this generation because of the

four-cylinder engine and the Mustang Mach E SUV and other electric vehicles. Last month Stellantis said fuel economy requirements are one reason it's canceling its gasoline muscle cars by the end of next year. The company plans an all-electric Dodge Charger in 2024.

"Where we go next, we'll see how things will go," said Eddie Khan, engineering manager for the car. "The whole industry is changing."

The Mustang gets all new sheet metal outside, and Ford says it has lower wind drag than any other generation. You can still get a six-speed manual transmission on the GT; otherwise it's an improved 10-speed automatic.

Don Andrews of Detroit, who owns a 2018 V8 Mustang, said he hopes this isn't the last gasoline version. "I hope they keep it petrol because more people like it," he said. "Everybody likes that

rev, that noise. That's what makes it a Mustang."

Andrews said he's glad the show was moved to a warmer month so events like the Mustang reveal can take place outdoors. He thinks more people will attend the show than they did when it was in January.

Zimmerman said the downsizing of auto shows is part of worldwide trend that started about a decade ago and this year forced the cancellation of the auto show in Geneva, Switzerland. Other auto shows, too, are shifting their focus to letting customers in their region see and even drive new vehicles.

Even with the changes, the show still amounts to a major production. So much so that President Joe Biden and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg attended.

Biden, a gearhead who owns a 1967 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray, sat in a high-performance Corvette Wednesday, and he drove a Cadillac Lyric

AP
A Buick Wildcat EV concept is shown during the media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022.

electric SUV slowly down an aisle in the convention hall.

The show won't be entirely devoid of glitz. Ford, Jeep and Stellantis' Ram brand have displays that will hold vehicles as they drive over steep slopes. Dirt and trees were trucked in for a natural look. There are tracks where customers can ride in new electric vehicles, including Ford's F-150 Lightning pickup. Outside, there's a 60-foot-tall inflatable rubber duck, paying homage to a Jeep tradition of enthusiasts leaving a small yellow duck on a Jeep they think is cool.

Zimmermann agreed that attendance will likely be smaller than the roughly 800,000 the show drew during peak years of the past. He said he would be pleased with 500,000 for the 12-day show. This year, those who attend outdoor activities alone won't be counted, which will hold down the total.

One thing is sure: Electric vehicles will be big draws for the public. Many will be on display for the first time to customers even though automakers unveiled them earlier.

"They want to know how they ride, how they drive and have experience with them," Zimmermann said. "It's not just enough to see a car on a carpet or to see just a digital display on a screen, but to really interact with the vehicle."

It's the interaction, with vehicles and with other people, that Zimmermann says will enhance the show after the lengthy pandemic pause.

"We like to think that after 3 1/2 years away, we'll do nothing but grow," he said.

Can't go through car wash?

Q: I have a 2019 Subaru Forester. I have been told that, due to the many electronic systems, I cannot go to a car wash that uses a track system. To do so I would have to turn off all systems. I was told it is because my car is in neutral on a track system and the electronic systems are still engaged. Is this true?

A: You stumped me, so I turned to the International Carwash Association for help. In an email they said that there isn't anything that they are aware of that makes Subarus unable to be washed at a car wash. The association continues to advocate for car wash manufacturers to add a "car wash button" or "car wash

mode" that will help drivers be able to wash without difficulty. Unfortunately, some manufacturers haven't made this a priority yet. When in doubt, the driver should ask the car wash operators for assistance. They've usually learned how to help drivers get a clean car.

Q: The battery in my wife's Grand Cherokee died. I tried to jump it with my 2020 Ram with the 5.7-liter engine but to no avail. When I borrowed a portable jump start unit, it started right up. I ran the cables from the Ram's battery terminals directly. What gives?

A: Not all jumper cables are created equal. You may have been using small lighter gauge

cables unable to carry the needed amperage. Good cables are usually 1 or 2 gauge and able to carry 400 amps or more, while some jumper boxes can deliver 800 amps or more.

Q: I have a 2008 Honda CR-V. The TPMS light would come on intermittently, generally after driving about 20 minutes, stay on for a bit, then go off. I brought the vehicle to the dealership, and they said the light came on because I was using the auxiliary jack in the dash to charge my phone and that I could no longer charge my phone that way. They said they did a reset. I've not charged the phone that way since, and the light's not come on. It didn't make sense to me, be-

cause isn't that what the auxiliary jack is for?

A: Cheap automobile phone chargers are known to create problems. The most common is interference with the FM signal for your radio. But I can't rule out stray signals from your charger messing with the ABS system. A charger from the same company that makes your phone is less likely to cause interference.

Q: I have a 2008 Saab 93 Turbo X and it has been a dreamboat for its first 135,000 miles. However, recently, whenever the car is in heavy traffic and warms up, I have a great deal of difficulty shifting gears. Whenever I start the car and it's cold, shifting is as smooth as silk. I've never had the clutch re-

MOTORMOUTH By BOB WEBER

Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



placed and wonder if that could be the culprit. What do you think the issue could be?

A: You are on the right track. My hunch is a bad slave cylinder. It pushes on the clutch cover (pressure plate) to uncouple the engine from the

transmission. Since the slave is inside the clutch housing, you might as well replace the whole shebang, including the cover assembly, clutch disc, pilot bearing and, if necessary, the flywheel if it has blue areas showing heat damage.

Life & Style

Steven Spielberg's 'Fabelmans' wins Toronto audience award

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

Steven Spielberg's autobiographical coming-of-age drama "The Fabelmans" won the Toronto International Film

'The Woman King' takes North American box office throne

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

The Viola Davis-led action epic "The Woman King" easily conquered the North American box office in its first weekend in theaters, against a crowded market of new releases. The film, directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood, surpassed expectations and earned \$19 million in ticket sales, according to estimates from Sony on Sunday.

"The Woman King" was released by Sony and TriStar in 3,765 locations and carries a reported production budget of \$50 million, which was co-financed by eOne. The film, about the Agojie, the all-female army of the Kingdom of Da-

Omota, won the festival's top prize, the People's Choice Award, solidifying its early status as Academy Awards frontrunner.

Toronto's audience award was announced Sunday as



SONY PICTURES VIA AP
This image released by Sony Pictures shows Viola Davis in "The Woman King."

homey in West Africa in the 1800s, got glowing reviews after its debut at the Toron-

to International Film Festival. It currently boasts a 94% fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes. And theatrical audiences seem just as enthusiastic, giving it a rare A+ CinemaScore suggesting that word of mouth will be strong in the coming weeks.

"This one has great reviews, an epic story and a great star in the lead role," said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore's senior media analyst. "People want to go to the movie theater and audiences are back in the habit of expecting new movies in theaters."

The horror movie "Barbarian," a 20th Century Studios release, took second place in its second weekend with \$6.3 million.

of a number of anticipated crowd pleasers, including the Viola Davis-led "The Woman King," Rian Johnson's "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" and Billy Eichner's "Bros."

Toronto's audience award, voted on by festival moviegoers, is a much-watched harbinger of the coming awards season. Each of the last ten years, the TIFF winner has gone on to be nominated for best picture at the Oscars — and often won it. Last year, Kenneth Branagh's "Belfast" triumphed at a much-diminished hybrid Toronto International Film Festival. The year before that, Chloé Zhao's "Nomadland" took TIFF's award before winning at the Academy Awards. Other past



Spielberg

winners include "12 Years a Slave," "La La Land" and "Green Book."

This year, no film came into the festival more anticipated than "The Fabelmans," Spielberg's memory-infused film about his childhood. In the movie, which

Universal Pictures will release Nov. 11, Michelle Williams and Paul Dano play the parents, with newcomer Gabriel LaBelle as teenage Spielberg, Sammy Fabelman. The film scored rave reviews after its premiere.

"This is the most personal film I've made and the warm reception from everyone in Toronto made my first visit to TIFF so intimate and personal for me and my entire 'Fabel-

man' family," Spielberg said in a statement read by Cameron Bailey, festival director.

The first runner-up to the prize was Sarah Polley's "Woman Talking," about the female members of a Menonite colony gathered to discuss years of sexual abuse. The second runner-up went to Johnson's "Glass Onion," the director's whodunit sequel for Netflix.

Audience in other sections of the festival also vote for People's Choice awards. The festival's audience prize for documentary went to "Black Ice," Hubert Davis' film about the history of Black hockey players executive produced by LeBron James. The midnight section winner was "Weird: The Al Yankovic Story," Eric Appel's music biopic parody co-written with Yankovic and starring Daniel Radcliffe.

'The Phantom of the Opera' to close on Broadway next year

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Phantom of the Opera"—Broadway's longest-running show—is scheduled to close in February 2023, the biggest victim yet of the post-pandemic softening in theater attendance in New York.

The musical—a fixture on Broadway since 1988, weathering recessions, war and cultural shifts—will play its final performance on Broadway on Feb. 18, a spokesperson told The Associated Press on Friday. The closing will come less than a month after its 35th an-

niversary. It will conclude with an eye-popping 13,925 performances.

It is a costly musical to sustain, with elaborate sets and costumes as well as a large cast and orchestra. Box office grosses have fluctuated since the show reopened after the pandemic—going as high as over \$1 million a week but also dropping to around \$850,000. Last week, it hit \$867,997 and producers may have seen the writing on the wall.

Based on a novel by Gaston Leroux, "Phantom" tells the



AP
A poster advertising "The Phantom of the Opera," is displayed on the shuttered Majestic Theatre in New York, March 12, 2020.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Post Malone is 'sorry' for on-stage accident in St. Louis

Post Malone apologized to his St. Louis fans Sunday for an on-stage accident that sent him to the hospital and shortened his set the night before at the Enterprise Center. In the middle of a song Saturday, Malone fell into a hole on stage that moments before was opened to lower an instrument into. In a video message posted on Twitter on Sunday, he said the fall, "Got me pretty good." He said he'd just gotten back from the hospital, where he was prescribed pain medication. "I just want to apologize to everyone in St. Louis," Malone said. "Next time I'm around this way we're going to

do a two-hour show for you, so we can make up for the couple missed songs." There should be no implications for the rest of the tour, which continues Sunday night in Columbus, Ohio. (AP)

Hurt in June shooting, Ludacris' manager faces murder charge

ATLANTA (AP)—The manager for the rapper Ludacris faces a murder charge in Atlanta in connection with a June shooting. The Atlanta Police Department said Chaka Zulu, whose legal name is Ahmed Obafemi, turned himself in to face charges Tuesday. Atlanta news outlets report that he was released on bail the same day.

Police said they also secured warrants charging him with aggravated assault, possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime and simple battery. Gabe Banks, a lawyer for the longtime music executive, issued a statement expressing disappointment in the decision to bring charges. Banks said evidence clearly shows Zulu—who was injured in the incident—defended himself while being attacked by at least four other people in the June incident. Zulu was among three people shot in the June 26 gunfire at a parking lot in the Buckhead area. One person died. Banks' statement said Zulu defended himself with a firearm he is licensed to carry.

60th anniversary looms with no acknowledgment from kids

DEAR ABBY: I have a good, if not terribly close, relationship with my adult son and daughter. We speak every few weeks. They live some distance away. There's no drama, no negative angst between us. My husband and I will soon be celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary. Neither our son nor our daughter has acknowledged the occasion nor asked if we wish to celebrate it. I assume they are somehow unaware of this milestone.

Should I contact them about it? It's not like we're incommunicado or estranged, because we're not. This anniversary is a BIG deal to us, yet they seem unaware. I'm blaming myself somehow. Their father has been treated for cancer and is, fortunately, deemed cancer-free now. What is your advice?

READY TO CELEBRATE IN FLORIDA

DEAR READY: Your son and daughter may be so wrapped up in themselves and their own lives that it hasn't occurred to them to volunteer to host something or ask what you and their father would like. Call them and raise the subject. They may be waiting to be told what, if anything, you have planned for the occasion. If they are not available, do not let that stop you from having the celebration the occasion deserves.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend broke up with me. After a few weeks, I was OK with it. Then he wanted to visit me, but I was busy that day and, truth be told, I didn't want to

see him. I was going to hang out with a guy friend when my ex showed up although I had told him not to. When I went out with my friend, my ex couldn't go in my house because I didn't want him there if I wasn't there. When I returned home, my ex was mad that we went out to eat and didn't get him anything. Was I supposed to buy him food if I didn't even want him there to begin with? This happened months ago and I'm still furious.

DEE IN NEW YORK

DEAR DEE: Being furious is a waste of your time and energy. That your former boyfriend would force himself on you in spite of having been told he was unwelcome was rude and boorish. You did exactly the right thing by not allowing him to insert himself into your plans. I hope you are now rid of him. If he keeps it up, it could be considered borderline stalking.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently returned from an annual girls trip with my retired teachers group. We all get along well and enjoy each other's company except for one "fly in the ointment" who refuses to leave decent tips for great restaurant service. I'm talking about \$2 on a \$20 tab. We all pay our own bills and tip 25% or more every time. We have mentioned the subject of tipping to her before. She says she thinks it's a "racket." Is there anything we can do?

CHEAPSKATE'S FRIEND

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



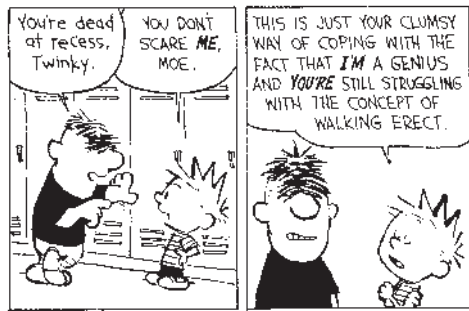
DEAR FRIEND: The annual girls trip may be this woman's only splurge for the year, which may be why she's conservative when it comes to tipping. I will assume that you and the others have spoken to her about the wage scale for restaurant servers, and the fact that many of them have to share their tips with other staff. Because there's nothing you can do to change the behavior of another adult, either consider your own generous tips as balancing out her stingy ones or stop including her because she's an embarrassment.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

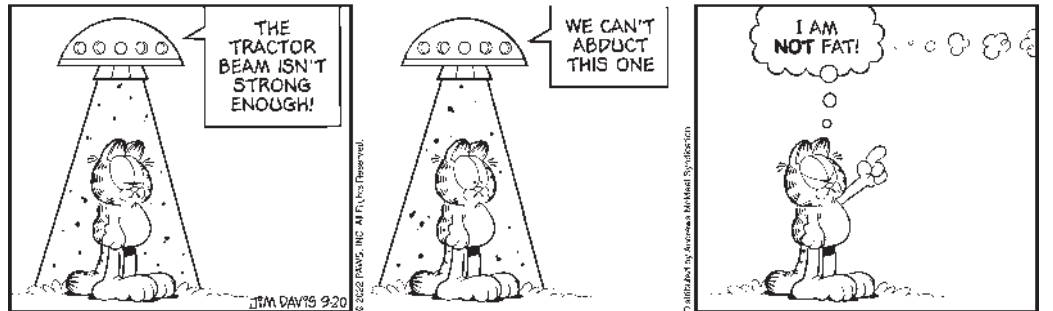
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Like lemons
5 Rock concert booster
8 Farm fathers
12 "The Kite Runner" boy
13 Saloon
14 Buffalo's lake
15 Yellow-brown gemstone
17 Blaze
18 Industrious insect
19 Actor Karl
21 Entices
24 Small rodents
25 Common connections
26 Vision tests
30 Enjoy Aspen
31 Camper owners, for short
32 Yule quaff
33 Close watch

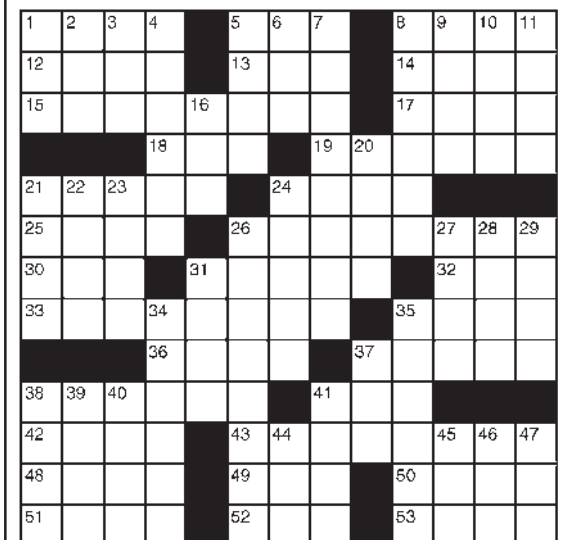
DOWN

35 Blog entry
36 Hibernia
37 Trousers
38 Brief time
41 De-bussy's "La —"
42 Author Hunter
43 Good-looking person
48 Laptop connection
49 Fair hiring letters
50 Shabby beer joint
51 Feeder filler
52 Slangy denial

35 Way out
21 Pyramid part
22 "Puppy Love" singer
23 Beatnik's assent
24 "No way!"
26 Katniss in "The Hunger Games"
27 Shortly
28 Lion's share
29 Boot camp VIPs
31 Check
34 Mr. Brezhnev
35 Saint Patrick's Day event
37 Chest muscle
38 Stitches
39 Marisa's "Only Love" role
40 Parisian eatery
41 Cat call
44 Pro vote
45 Veto
46 50¢, in old Rome
47 However

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-20



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Phillip Phillips, 32; Aldis Hodge, 36; Kristen Johnston, 55; Sophia Loren, 88.

Happy Birthday: You can dream and incorporate some of your ideas into your plans, but don't take a risk that might cost you your reputation or health this year. Proceed carefully and set up alternative plans just in case you need to switch gears and head in a different direction. Diversification will help you overcome setbacks and encourage you to take advantage of opportunities. Your numbers are 3, 11, 18, 24, 31, 37, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Socialize, and an exciting proposal or information you can utilize to get ahead will develop. Follow through with the promises you make. Your words count only if they turn into something tangible. A last-minute change will ward off a risk. ○○○○○

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stick to what you know, and don't deviate from one train of thought to another. Consistency will be your ticket to the winner's circle. Take care of responsibilities, and you'll avoid disappointment. Personal gain and self-improvement are favored, and romance is encouraged. ○○

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Say what's on your mind, reveal how you feel, and discover where you stand and what you can expect from others. Listen attentively, ask questions and verify information. Diligence, discipline and unique skills will lead to success and opportunities. ○○○○

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your insight, dedication and originality to help you develop a plan that will outmaneuver any

competition you encounter. Play it safe and leave nothing to chance. Put your plan in place and follow through. Self-improvements are favored. ○○○

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your plans a secret until you are ready to put them into play. Approach someone who can offer a different perspective on something that interests you. You may want a change, but don't take an emotional, physical or financial risk. ○○○

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Trust and believe in yourself, and everything else will fall into place. Look at the possibilities, use your creative imagination and find new ways to use your skills to accommodate what you want to unfold. Nurture relationships and avoid discord. ○○○○

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Oversee what others do, and compensate for any mistake or lack of finesse that might cost you from achieving your objective. Don't put emotional pressure on yourself or others, but prepare to pick up the slack to ensure you get the desired results. ○○

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Express your concerns and make suggestions. A passionate plea will have an impact on the way others treat you. Don't waste money on entertainment when investing in yourself or your home will lower your stress and add to your comfort. ○○○○○

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Reflect, then alter how you live and do things to suit your current needs. Don't bend to someone trying to push you in a direction that suits them instead of you. Steer clear of busy venues that pose health risks. ○○○

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look for a financial opportunity. Cutting back where you can and investing more time, effort and cash into something that interests you will improve your life. Altering how you choose to live is favored and will impact your overhead. ○○○

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't accommodate others when you need to follow your heart and give your plans a chance to develop properly. Home improvements will enrich your life and your relationship with someone you love. Pave the way to a better future. ○○○

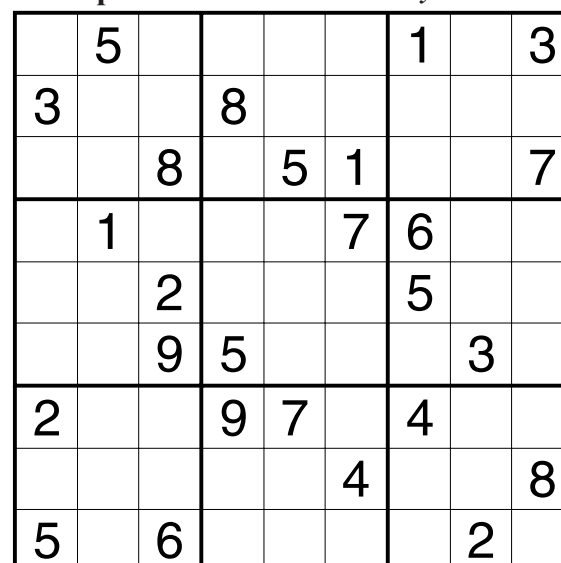
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your energy where it can do some good. Anger won't solve anything or help you win favors or respect. Compromise, make positive suggestions and create a picture with words that will help others visualize what you want to pursue. ○○○
Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, unique and inventive. You are helpful and entertaining.

○: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ○○: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ○○○: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ○○○○: Aim high; start new projects. ○○○○○: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



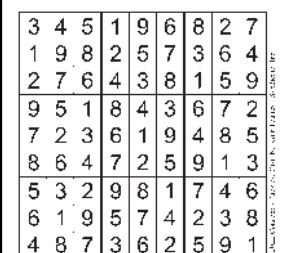
Difficulty Level ★★

9/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH COUNTRY

Solution: 8 letters



© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 9/20
Adams, Agriculture, Allentown, Amish, Artisans, Auction, Berks, Carriages, Central, Centre, Deutsch, Dragon, Dutch, Fish, Franklin, German, Green, Haven, Hershey, Hill, Horses, Lancaster, Lanes, Lehigh, Lincoln, Markets, Mennonite, Mifflin, Moravian, Mountains, Northampton, Reading, Root, Rural, Soil, South, Tourism, Train, Valleys, York
Yesterday's Answer: CRUTCHES
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 69, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Tagovailoa, Dolphins stun Ravens with huge 4th-quarter rally



BALTIMORE (AP)—Tua Tagovailoa threw for 469 yards and six touchdowns, four of which came during a spectacular fourth quarter, and the Miami Dolphins rallied from a 21-point deficit to beat Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens 42-38 on Sunday.

Tagovailoa's 7-yard touchdown pass to Jaylen Waddle with 14 seconds left completed the incredible comeback after Miami (2-0) trailed 35-14 with under 13 minutes remaining.

Tyreek Hill had touchdown catches of 48 and 60 yards during that rally, the latter of which tied the game with 5:19 to play.

Justin Tucker kicked a 51-yard field goal with 2:18 remaining to put Baltimore ahead, but that was far too much time for Miami's offense.

The Dolphins overcame a spectacular performance by Jackson, who threw three first-half touchdown passes and then gave Baltimore (1-1) its 21-point lead with a 79-yard TD run in the third. Jackson threw for 318 yards and three touchdowns and finished with 119 yards on nine carries. He became the first quarterback in NFL history with both a touchdown pass and a touchdown run of at least 75 yards in the same game.

Waddle had 11 catches for 171 yards and two touchdowns, and Hill had 11 for 190 yards and his two TDs.

Devin Duvernay returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown, and the Ravens never trailed until the final seconds.

Cowboys 20, Bengals 17

In Arlington, Texas, Brett Maher kicked a 50-yard field goal as time expired, and Dallas held on to beat Cincinnati after losing a two-touchdown halftime lead.

Joe Burrow got the Bengals even at 17-17 by leading a 19-play, 83-yard drive in the fourth quarter, throwing a 5-yard touchdown pass to Tee Higgins and finding Tyler Boyd for the 2-point conversion.

After the Cowboys stopped the Bengals with about a minute remaining, Cooper Rush got the Cowboys in range for Maher to help Dallas win for the second time in his two career starts filling in for an injured Dak Prescott.

Rush got the winning drive going with a 12-yard completion to Noah Brown, who had his first career touchdown on the opening drive. A 10-yarder to CeeDee Lamb put the Cowboys (1-1) in range for Maher,



Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (1) and wide receiver River Cracraft (85) celebrate a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022, in Baltimore.

who kicked a 54-yarder in the first half.

49ers 27, Seahawks 7

In Santa Clara, Calif., Jimmy Garoppolo threw a touchdown pass on his first full drive after replacing an injured Trey Lance and ran for another score to help San Francisco beat Seattle.

Lance broke his right ankle on the second drive of the game, a season-ending injury for the 22-year-old who was given the keys to San Francisco's offense this season.

That set the stage for Garoppolo to come in and reclaim the job he held for most of the past four seasons as the surprising decision to keep Garoppolo on a reduced contract paid nearly immediate dividends for the Niners.

He completed his first five passes in his first game since last season's NFC title game, including a 38-yard touchdown pass to Ross Dwelley that put San Francisco (1-1) up 13-0.

Jets 31, Browns 30

In Cleveland, Joe Flacco's 15-yard touchdown pass to rookie Garrett Wilson with 22 seconds left rallied the New York Jets past Cleveland, which blew a two-touchdown lead in the final two minutes.

Flacco, who had four TD passes, found a streaking Wilson over the middle on third-and-10.

Nick Chubb's third rushing TD put Cleveland up by 13 with 1:55 left. However, rookie kicker Cade York pushed his extra point to the right, a miss that proved critical.

Flacco hit Corey Davis for a 66-yard TD with 1:22 left to pull the Jets (1-1) within 30-24. New York recovered the onside kick and Flacco, substituting for the injured Zach Wil-

son, drove to the 15 without any timeouts before hooking up with Garrett Wilson.

Cardinals 29, Raiders 23, OT

In Las Vegas, Byron Murphy Jr. scooped up Hunter Renfrow's fumble and returned it 59 yards for a touchdown with 3:51 left in overtime, and Arizona rallied from a 20-point deficit in the second half to beat Las Vegas.

Kyler Murray scrambled for a 3-yard touchdown on the final snap of regulation before hitting A.J. Green for the tying 2-point conversion for the Cardinals (1-1), who trailed 23-7 with less than nine minutes left in regulation.

The Raiders stopped Murray on downs on Arizona's opening drive of overtime, but Renfrow then made a catch and fumbled for the second consecutive play. Isaiah Simmons knocked it loose, and Murphy snagged the ball and sprinted down the Cardinals' sideline to the end zone with his ecstatic teammates in pursuit for a frenzied celebration.

Arizona followed up its season-opening blowout loss to Kansas City by falling behind 20-0 in the first half in Vegas, but coach Kliff Kingsbury's team transformed after the break. Murray passed for 277 yards and rushed for 28 more.

Packers 27, Bears 10

In Green Bay, Wis., Aaron Jones rushed for 132 yards and a touchdown and caught a scoring pass from Aaron Rodgers, who continued his domination of Chicago.

Green Bay (1-1) bounced back from a season-opening 23-7 loss at Minnesota and beat the Bears (1-1) for a seventh straight time, matching its second-longest win streak in the 205-game history of the

NFL's oldest rivalry.

The Packers built a 24-7 halftime lead by dominating the second period, then made a goal-line stand in the fourth quarter to thwart a Bears comeback attempt.

Green Bay vowed to get Jones the ball more often and he came through, gaining 8.8 yards per carry and leading the Packers' 203-yard rushing attack.

Buccaneers 20, Saints 10

In New Orleans, Tom Brady helped incite a skirmish that led to two ejections, then threw a go-ahead touchdown pass to Breshad Perriman that lifted Tampa Bay to a 20-10 victory over New Orleans.

Brady, who had lost four straight regular-season meetings with the Saints (1-1), again struggled for the first three quarters of this latest, testy encounter between NFC South rivals.

Brady was shouting at Saints quarterback Marshon Lattimore in the fourth quarter when running back Leonard Fournette entered the fray and shoved the Saints' star cornerback. The Buccaneers' Mike Evans rushed in and flattened Lattimore, and both were ejected.

On Tampa Bay's next series, Brady marched the Bucs (2-0) to the New Orleans 28 and then hit Perriman in the back right corner of the end zone to make it 10-3.

The Bucs' defense then squelched the Saints' comeback bid by intercepting Jameis Winston three times in the final 12 minutes.

Brady finished 18 of 34 for 190 yards and the lone TD.

Rams 31, Falcons 27

In Inglewood, Calif., Matthew Stafford threw for 272 yards

and three touchdowns, Jalen Ramsey intercepted a potential go-ahead touchdown pass in the end zone and Los Angeles held off a second-half rally attempt by Atlanta.

Cooper Kupp had two TD catches for the Super Bowl champion Rams (1-1), who were beaten badly by Buffalo in their season opener.

Atlanta — which has started 0-2 for the third straight year — trailed 28-3 early in the third quarter.

Troy Anderson blocked a punt that Lorenzo Carter returned 26 yards for a touchdown, and a 2-point conversion pass from Marcus Mariota to Drake London brought the Falcons within 31-25 with 5:06 remaining.

Los Angeles turned it over on its ensuing drive when Darren Hall forced Kupp to fumble and recovered it at the Rams 37. On third-and-13 from the Rams 24, Mariota tried to find Bryan Edwards, but Ramsey picked off the pass.

Patriots 17, Steelers 14

In Pittsburgh, Mac Jones threw for 253 yards and a touchdown and New England beat Pittsburgh.

The Patriots (1-1) haven't lost consecutive games to start a season since 2001. They took advantage of a handful of mistakes by the Steelers (1-1), including a muffed punt in the third quarter by Gunner Olszewski that set up a 2-yard touchdown run by Damien Harris. That gave New England an 11-point lead it didn't relinquish.

Jones finished 21 of 35, including a 44-yard touchdown pass to a leaping Nelson Agholor late in the first half.

Giants 19, Panthers 16

In East Rutherford, N.J., Graham Gano kicked a 56-yard field goal with 3:34 to play and New York beat Carolina.

The Giants improved to 2-0 for the first time since 2016 and sent the Panthers to their ninth straight loss.

Gano also hit from 52, 36 and 33 yards and Daniel Jones found rookie tight end Daniel Bellinger on a 16-yard touchdown pass as the Giants responded in the second half after being booed off the field at halftime of a 6-6 game.

Baker Mayfield hit DJ Moore for a 16-yard touchdown for a 13-6 lead early in the second half for the Panthers (0-2). Eddy Pineiro kicked field goals of 31, 32 and 38 yards for Carolina, the last one tying the game at 16-all with 10:40 to play.

Broncos 16, Texans 9

In Denver, Russell Wilson overcame a slow start and a

cascade of boos to lead Denver past Houston in his uneven debut.

The Broncos (1-1) were flagged 13 times for 100 yards, marking the first time in four years they've had back-to-back games with double-digit penalties.

But they pulled it out on defense, holding Houston (0-1-1) to a trio of field goals by Ka'imi Fairbairn.

After completing just six of his first 20 throws, Wilson went 4-for-4 on the Broncos' go-ahead scoring drive that featured a 35-yard strike to a wide-open Courtland Sutton and a 22-yard payoff to tight end Eric Saubert that put Denver ahead 13-9 early in the fourth quarter.

Jaguars 24, Colts 0

In Jacksonville, Fla., Trevor Lawrence threw two touchdown passes to Christian Kirk, and Jacksonville dominated short-handed Indianapolis.

The Jaguars sacked Matt Ryan five times, intercepted three of his passes, held NFL rushing champion Jonathan Taylor to 54 yards and notched their eighth shutout in franchise history. The past three have come against Indianapolis (0-1-1), which lost its eighth straight at Jacksonville.

Lawrence completed 25 of 30 passes for 235 yards, with TD passes of 5 and 10 yards to Kirk, who finished with six catches for 78 yards.

Lions 36, Commanders 27

In Detroit, Jared Goff threw two of his four touchdown passes to Amon-Ra St. Brown, lifting Detroit past Washington.

Rookie Aidan Hutchinson had three sacks in the first half to help the Lions (1-1) lead 22-0 at halftime, and Will Harris had an interception in the second half to stunt the Commanders (1-1) as they tried to rally.

Carson Wentz pulled Washington within seven points in the third quarter with a 15-yard touchdown pass to Curtis Samuel, a 20-yard pass to Logan Thomas and 2-point conversion to rookie Jahan Dotson.

Detroit restored its cushion when Goff converted a third down by barely getting a pass off under pressure to D'Andre Swift, who slipped to the turf before regaining his footing and cutting across the field for a 22-yard touchdown.

Antonio Gibson's 1-yard run got the Commanders within eight. Coach Ron Rivera decided to go for 2 and Wentz was picked off. Joey Slye later missed an extra point with the Commanders down by nine.

Aaron Judge blasts 2 HRs, needs 2 to tie Maris' AL record



MILWAU-KEE (AP)—

Aaron Judge hit his 58th and 59th home runs of the season to move within two of Roger Maris' American League record with 16 games remaining and lead the New York Yankees over the Milwaukee Brewers 12-8 on Sunday.

Judge added a two-run double in the ninth as part of a four-hit day for New York, which hit five homers and avoided a three-game sweep. The Yankees opened a 5 1/2-game lead over second-place Toronto in the AL East.

Judge's 11th multihomer game tied the season record set by Detroit's Hank Greenberg 1938 and matched by the Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa in 1998.

Seeking a Triple Crown, Judge leads the major leagues in homers and with 127 RBIs. His .3162 batting average is just behind AL leader Luis Arraez of Minnesota at .317 and Boston's Xander Bogaerts at .3164.

Milwaukee dropped two games behind San Diego, which played later Sunday, for the third and last NL wild card.

Mets 7, Pirates 3

In New York, Jacob deGrom struck out 13 batters — the most ever for a Mets pitcher who threw five or fewer innings — but didn't factor into the decision. The NL East leaders beat Pittsburgh to complete a four-game sweep.

The Mets scored four in the eighth to break the tie. Terrance Gore pinch-ran in place of Tomas Nido, who hit a single off Robert Stephenson (2-2). Gore stole second after three throws to first by Manny Bañuelos, took third when catcher Jason Delay's throw sailed into centerfield and scored on Brandon Nimmo's bloop single.

Daniel Vogelbach added a one-out, two-RBI single and Eduardo Escobar had a run-scoring groundout.

Astros 11, Athletics 2

In Houston, Framber Valdez set an MLB record with his 25th straight quality start, and Yordan Alvarez and Martin Maldonado had four RBIs each to help Houston build an early lead in a rout of Oakland.

Alvarez drove in three runs with a double in Houston's five-run third inning and padded the lead with an RBI double the sixth inning. He extended his hitting streak to a season-high nine games, piling up nine hits, four home runs and nine RBIs in the series, in which

Houston took three of four.

Valdez (16-5) allowed four hits and two runs with seven strikeouts in six innings to pass Jacob deGrom (24 in 2018) for the most consecutive quality starts in a single season in MLB history.

Marlins 3, Nationals 1

In Washington, Sandy Alcantara pitched his major league-leading fifth complete game, a seven-hitter that led Miami over Washington to avoid a series sweep.

Alcantara (13-8) struck out seven and walked one, throwing 104 pitches. His 2.37 ERA is second in the National League to the 2.27 of the Los Angeles Dodgers' Julio Urias, and Alcantara leads the major leagues with 212 2/3 innings.

Garrett Cooper hit a sixth-inning, opposite-field homer to left-center for Miami, which had lost seven of nine.

Dodgers 4, Giants 3, 10 innings

In San Francisco, Mookie Betts had an RBI double in the 10th inning, Max Muncy drew a bases-loaded walk and Los Angeles held on to beat San Francisco.

The Dodgers beat the Giants for the 15th time in 19 meetings this season, getting that many wins for the first time in the rivalry that goes back to 1884.

Betts' double with one out in the 10th off John Brebbia (6-2) drove in automatic runner Cody Bellinger to give the Dodgers a 3-2 lead. One out later, Brebbia intentionally walked Freddie Freeman and Justin Turner to load the bases. Thomas Szapucki then walked Muncy to force in another run before striking out Trayce Thompson.

In the bottom of the inning, Andrew Jackson walked Thairo Estrada and, one out later, gave up an RBI single to Wilmer Flores with automatic runner Heliott Ramos scoring from third to pull the Giants within one. J.D. Davis then struck out but Evan Longoria walked to load the bases. Justin Bruihl came on and got LaMonte Wade Jr. to ground out to first to pick up his first career save.

Reds 3, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Stuart Fairchild homered, Luis Cessa tossed five shutout innings and Cincinnati shut down Albert Pujols and St. Louis.

The 42-year-old Pujols, who entered the game with 698 home runs, went 0 for 4. Pujols sits fourth on the all-time list behind Barry Bonds (762), Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714). The Cardinals have 14 games remaining.



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge hits his fifty eighth homerun during the third inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022, in Milwaukee.

St. Louis, which managed just two hits, had a three-game winning streak snapped but have a healthy lead over Milwaukee in the NL Central.

Jordan Montgomery (8-5) allowed three runs on seven hits over 5 1/3 innings, striking out nine and walking two.

Cessa (4-3) gave up just one hit, a single by Paul DeJong in the third. Buck Farmer recorded his second save in three opportunities.

Twins 3, Guardians 0

In Cleveland, Joe Ryan pitched shutout ball for the second straight outing and become only the second Minnesota starter to reach the eighth inning this season in Minnesota's win over Cleveland.

Jake Cave hit a solo homer in the second off Cody Morris (0-2) and AL batting leader Luis Arraez added a two-run single in the ninth against Enyel De Los Santos as third-place Minnesota stopped an eight-game losing streak against Cleveland.

Ryan (12-8) allowed three hits in 7 2/3 innings, struck out five and walked two.

Angels 5, Mariners 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Luis Rengifo hit a pair of home runs for the second time in three games, Livan Soto went deep for the first time and Los Angeles won its third in a row over Seattle.

Seeking their first playoff appearance since 2001, the longest drought in the major leagues, the Mariners saw their lead for the third and final AL wild-card berth cut to four games over Baltimore.

Rengifo got his first career leadoff homer, a drive off Marco Gonzales (10-14), and broke a 1-1 tie in the third with a two-run drive that followed Soto's single for his first big league hit.

Soto went 2 for 3 in his first start, a day after entering as a pinch runner and grounding out in his debut.

Reid Detmers (6-5) gave up one run and four hits in six innings, and three relievers finished a six-hitter.

Gonzales gave up five runs and seven hits over 6 1/3 innings.

Braves 5, Phillies 2

In Atlanta, rookie Spencer Strider took a no-hit bid into the sixth inning and struck out 10, William Contreras hit a tiebreaking homer and Atlanta beat Philadelphia for the three-game sweep.

Strider (11-5) didn't allow a hit until Alec Bohm homered to tie the score 1-1.

Contreras drove a change-up by Connor Brogdon (2-1) for a 410-foot shot into the left-field seats to make it 2-1 in the sixth.

Robbie Grossman hit his seventh homer to give the Braves a 3-1 lead against Sam Coonrod in the seventh.

Orioles 5, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Adley Rutschman hit a two-run single in the ninth inning, Baltimore turned the 15th triple play in team history and the Orioles rallied to beat Toronto.

Jesús Aguilar hit a solo homer, and Rutschman went 2 for 3 with two walks.

Joey Krehbiel (5-4) pitched a perfect eighth for the win. Félix Bautista earned his

14th save in 15 chances.

Guerrero and Danny Jansen hit solo homers for the Blue Jays, who maintained their position atop the AL wild card standings.

White Sox 11, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Andrew Vaughn hit his first career grand slam in Chicago's win over Detroit.

Eloy Jiménez and AJ Pollock also connected as Chicago won for the third time in four games. Jiménez finished with three hits and three RBIs, and Gavin Sheets had two hits and two RBIs.

The White Sox trailed the Guardians by 4 1/2 games heading into play on Sunday and host Cleveland for a three-game series starting Tuesday.

Sheets snapped a tie with a bases-loaded walk against Drew Hutchison (2-9) in the fifth, and Vaughn made it 7-2 when he drove a 1-2 slider from James Foley deep to left-center for his team-high 17th homer.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Juan Soto homered for the first time in three weeks and Yu Darvish pitched six scoreless innings to give San Diego a victory over Arizona.

Soto finished with three hits and two RBIs. He walked and scored on Manny Machado's 29th homer in the first, then connected for a solo drive in the fifth, singled in the eighth and doubled in the ninth.

Soto, who was acquired in a blockbuster trade with Washington on Aug. 2, hit

just .089 in his previous 17 games.

Darvish (15-7) allowed one hit, struck out eight and walked one in his fifth straight win.

Rays 5, Rangers 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Christian Bethancourt and Jose Siri hit back-to-back homers over a three-pitch stretch in the second inning, and Tampa Bay beat Texas.

Bethancourt had three hits, and Siri went 2 for 3 with a walk. Jonathan Aranda, Manuel Margot and Taylor Walls each drove in a run.

Tampa Bay secured its fifth straight winning season and is in the mix for one of the AL's three wild cards.

Rays left-hander Jeffrey Springs (9-4) pitched 5 2/3 innings of three-run ball. Pete Fairbanks worked the ninth for his eighth save in eight chances.

Josh Jung and Corey Seager homered for the Rangers. Glenn Otto (6-9) allowed four runs and seven hits in 3 1/3 innings.

In Boston, Rafael Devers had four hits and three RBIs in Boston's win over Kansas City.

Tommy Pham added three hits and three RBIs, and Kiké Hernández scored four times. Last-place Boston had dropped three of four and seven of 10 overall.

Xander Bogaerts added two hits with an RBI double, moving him into a tie with Dom DiMaggio (308) for ninth on Boston's career list.

Salvador Perez hit a solo homer for Kansas City. Vinnie Pasquantino and Drew Waters each had an RBI double.

Boston's Nick Pivetta (10-11) gave up three runs in five innings. Kris Bubic (2-13) lost his seventh straight start, giving up five runs in 2 2/3 innings.

Rockies 4, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Randal Grichuk had two hits and two RBIs, and Colorado beat Chicago for a rare second straight win on the road.

Connor Joe hit a solo homer for last-place Colorado, and Brendan Rodgers had a run-scoring groundout. Ryan Feltner (3-8) pitched 5 1/3 innings of three-run ball for his first win since Aug. 9. Daniel Bard pitched a perfect ninth for his 32nd save.

Yan Gomes homered and drove in a season-high three runs for the Cubs, who trailed 4-0 after two innings. David Bote had two hits.

Cubs starter Javier Assad (1-2) struggled with his control. He issued four walks in two innings and was charged with four runs and two hits.

Register to Play in NMC's 2023 Golf Open



Northern Marianas College is inviting all golfers to play in its 18th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Open. Interested players can now register and pay online at www.marianas.edu/golf.

NMC's tournament will be a two-day event and will be held on March 18 and 19, 2023, on the East and West Courses of the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort. The tournament fee for the 2023 golf open is \$250.

The tournament, which is the signature event of the NMC Foundation, aims to raise funds for the College for its rebuilding and reconstruction efforts. Despite the devastation and destruction of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College will host its 18th Annual Golf Tournament on March 18 and 19, 2023 at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort. Interested players can register and pay online at marianas.edu/golf

Super Typhoon Soudelor and Yutu, the College has been aggressively seeking funds from all available sources to rebuild classrooms, offices, labs, and workforce spaces for the CNMI community.

There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies (Low-Gross and Low-Net). There will be a number of great prizes and awards to players and sponsors. Slots for the tournament fill up fast, so interested players are encouraged to register early.

The college is asking companies, organizations and individuals who are interested in sponsoring holes and/or for any in-kind or cash donation to help support the CNMI's post-secondary institution. For more information on how to become a sponsor, call 237-6780. **(PR)**

Sarver should resign, says Suns vice chairman Jahm Najafi

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Phoenix Suns vice chairman Jahm Najafi called Thursday for team owner Robert Sarver to resign, saying there should be "zero tolerance" for lewd, misogynistic and racist conduct in any workplace.

Sarver was suspended for one year and fined \$10 million by the NBA on Tuesday, after a 10-month investigation showed the Suns owner had used racist language, made crude and sexually suggestive comments to employees, and had bullying tendencies.

"I cannot in good judgment sit back and allow our children and future generations of fans think that this behavior is tolerated because of wealth and privilege," Najafi wrote in a letter released



Phoenix Suns owner Robert Sarver applauds the teams 107-99 victory against the Minnesota Timberwolves during an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018, in Phoenix.

through a public-relations firm. "Therefore, in accordance with my commitment to helping eradicate any form of racism, sexism and bias, as Vice Chairman of the

Phoenix Suns, I am calling for the resignation of Robert Sarver."

Najafi has been critical of Sarver throughout this saga, which broke when ESPN re-

leased a story in November detailing widespread claims of wrongdoing by Sarver. That reporting prompted the NBA to commission an investigation. Najafi is one of three vice chairmen for the Suns, with several other minority investors also part of the ownership group.

Once the investigation ended, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver decided a one-year suspension and \$10 million fine was the appropriate penalty. He said Wednesday that one key finding by outside investigators — that while Sarver "repeated or purported to repeat the N-word on at least five occasions spanning his tenure with the Suns," investigators made "no finding that Sarver used this racially insensitive language with the intent to demean or denigrate" — likely spared him a much

stiffer penalty.

LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers and Suns guard Chris Paul later released statements on social media saying the NBA's sanctions of Sarver didn't go far enough.

Najafi agreed. In his letter, he also said he has "no interest" in becoming the managing partner.

"Similar conduct by any CEO, executive director, president, teacher, coach or any other position of leadership would warrant immediate termination," he said in the letter released through the LAVIDGE public relations firm. "The fact that Robert Sarver 'owns' the team does not give him a license to treat others differently than any other leader. The fact that anyone would

find him fit to lead because of this 'ownership' position is forgetting that NBA teams belong to the communities they serve."

Najafi's letter was released on the same day Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego and some of the city's councilmembers released a statement saying they were "appalled by the actions" that were detailed in the Sarver report.

"It is unacceptable for the organization's leadership to be associated in any way with the despicable actions detailed in the report," that statement said. "We are equally concerned about a culture that would enable these actions to occur time and again, with — at most — ineffective disciplinary action."

YU

From Page 20

Jeff Race.

Chung made it to the finals after defeating Raetea Rongo of Cook Islands in two sets, 6-1, 6-3, last Thursday.

Prior to the 2022 POJC,

Irin and Yu, both the CNMI's top-ranked 14-year-olds in the sport, were upset by their teammates and missed the Top 4 in the recent 2022 Northern Pacific Regional Championships in Guam, but made the cut to Fiji after being granted wildcard entries by the Oceania Tennis Federation last month.

The 2022 POJC marked both Yu's and Irin's debut in the regional tournament for juniors.

Other NMI netter that saw action in Fiji were boys 16-and-under's Minsoo "David" Kwon, girls 16's Serin Chung and Savita Sikkell, boys 14's Siwoo Lee, girls 14's

Hoo Wang, Hannah Chae, and Anna Kwon, boys 12's Yutaka Kadokura, Ian Chae, Ryan Choi, and Jihun Park, and girls 12's Lina Tsukagoshi.

The CNMI junior netters were coached by CNMI sports hall of famer and Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation president Jeff Race.

SIBLING

From Page 20

from Angelito Toys for getting our bikes ready as well," they said.

As to defending their No. 1 plates next season, Stanley Jr. and Conan had different but somewhat similar answers this time.

"I won't be defending my title in the Mini I division as I

will be moving up to a higher bike 85cc which is the Minis II class," said the elder Iakopo.

I'll keep practicing, that's how you get better and tune my Husqvarna bike to be faster. But I also want to race in the Minis I Class, 65cc," said Conan.

Winners of the other classes of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

AUDIE

From Page 20

Hideo, Jerome Delos Santos, Mike Techur, Paul Salalila, Jude Dickenson, and Ton Pangelinan have five each.

John Terlaje has the most runs scored with 24, Clint Quitugua and Joe Lizama with 18, Cartfield Sablan, Jeff Cruz, and Jaimi Reyes with 17, Lefty Shiro and Mike Tomokane with 16, and Eric

Palacios, J.J. Laniyo, and Paul Salalila with 15.

John Taitano has the most doubles with six, followed by Cartfield Sablan, Tim Wesley, and John Acosta with five. 12 players are tied with four doubles each.

The triple master is Lefty Shiro with five, Mike Tomokane with four, and John Taitano with three.

The pitching leaders are Kuich Damian of Momma Charo with a 1-2 win loss re-

cord, 13.1 innings pitched, 29 hits against him, and a 3.74 earned run average.

The strikeout king is Dominic Hideo with 19, followed by George David and Tom Camacho with 17 each.

In the women's division, the batting leader so far is Glare "Clarissa" Mabel of Lady Eagles with 17 at bats, 11 hits, and a .647 batting average. She is followed by the Queens of the Diamond's Erin Mendiola with 14 at bats, nine hits, and a .643

average, and Kiana "Baby K" Camacho with 19 at bats, 12 hits, and a .532 batting average.

Kiana Camacho is tied at 13 with Brittany Luzama and Emi Oiterong leads with the most runs scored, Kiana Aldan with 11, and Angela Muna, Alanna Sumang, and Becky Repeki with 10.

Kiana Camacho, Kayla Kaipat, Brittany Luzama, Catalina DLCruz, and Becky Repeki have the most doubles with three each, followed by Janice

Celis, Glare Mabel, Rachel Salalila, Rayna Diguerrero, Sonia Isaac, Marina Kaipat, and Jennie Scalliem with two each.

Rosie Saralu, Keyona Tude-la, and Edilyn Benjamin have two triples each and 16 players are tied with one.

Kiana Aldan has the most home runs with four, followed by Rosie Saralu, Heather Klaidikm, Erlinda Naputi, Becky Repeki, Janice Celis, Rayna DiGuerrero, Anna Olupumar, Victoria Pangelinan, Sonia

Isaac, and Marina Kaipat with one each.

Kiana Aldan, Rosie Saralu, and Marina Kaipat have 10 RBIs each, followed by Catalina Dela Cruz, Glare Mabel, and Becky Repeki with nine each, and Kayla Kaipat with eight.

The pitching queen is Queens of Diamonds' Bert Camacho with a 5-1 win-loss record, 36 innings pitched, 56 runs against her, and a 2.14 ERA.



Tagovailoa,
Dolphins stun
Ravens with huge
4th-quarter rally
PAGE 17

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PAGE 19



20 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Yu, Wessel win boys 14 doubles



Yu

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI's Nasson Wessel and June Yu beat compatriots Seung Woo Choi and La Hunn Lam in the boy 14 doubles championship, while Irin Chung salvaged third place in the girls 14 singles last Saturday in the 2022 Pacific Oceania Juniors Championship held in Lautoka, Fiji.



The courts of the Regional Tennis Centre were covered in NMI blue as Yu and Wessel faced off with Choi and Lam in three exciting sets. In the end, the former had the upper hand as they defeated the latter in a tiebreaking third set, 6-4, 7-6, 10-4.

The NMI faceoff in the finals came after Yu and Wessel defeated Darius Caruthers of Samoa and Keanu Lei Foc of Tahiti in three sets in the

semifinals, 4-6, 6-4, 10-8 last Friday. On the same day, Choi and Lam defeated Hiva Kelly and Toanui Lee Tham in two sets, 6-0, 6-2.

Over in the girls 14 singles championship, Chung defeated Toaiva Busby of Samoa in two sets, 6-1, 6-3, to claim third place.

» **Irin finishes third in girls 14 singles**

"Irin's result is all the more notable because she failed to qualify for the com-

petition at the regional tournament in Guam last July when she was upset by teammate Hoo Wang," said head coach

See YU on **Page 19**



Wessel

Audie Maratita is batting leader

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Audie Maratita of Team Sufa is the current batting leader of the men's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League.



As of Sept. 11, he has had 22 at bats, 17 hits, and a .773 batting average. He is followed by Man Amigos' Mark Toves with 21 at bats, 16 hits, and a .762 batting aver-

age. Jeff Cruz from Tokahao comes in third with 27 at bats, 19 hits, and a .704 average.

Meanwhile, Man Amigos' Eric Palacios leads in two categories. He is still the home run king with nine home runs and has the most runs batted in or RBIs with 26.

After Palacios in the home run category comes Maratita, Pete Sablan, and Jeff Cruz with seven each. Dominic

See AUDIE on **Page 19**



LEIGH GASES

Audie Maratita of Team Sufa is currently the batting leader of the men's division in the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League.

Sibling revelry: Stanley Jr. and Conan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Brothers Stanley Iakopo Jr. and Conan Iakopo dominated their respective divisions in the Marianas Racing Association's 2022 Monster Energy Point Series.

Both Saipan International School students collected their No. 1 plates during the MRA awards banquet last Sept. 10 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Stanley Jr. won the Mini I Class with 318 points, followed by Harley Susulin in second place with 298 points and Jonoah Santos in third place with 240 points.

Conan, meanwhile, was 3 points shy of a perfect season in the Pee wee II Class with 347 points. He was followed by Keenon Togawa and Kaleb Reyes in second and third place with 304 points and 263 points, respectively.

The brothers said they felt thrilled coming out on top

of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series.

"Winning the red plate was exciting and I'm very grateful," said the 11-year-old Stanley Jr.

Conan, meanwhile, was a bit more sure of his win.

"It wasn't a surprise as I knew that I was going to be first place. Easy win," said the 9-year-old.

The two also seem to cherish winning their respective classes the same year.

"It means a lot because I went through some challenges, crashes, and bike issues, but I was determined to do my best," said Stanley Jr.

"It means the world to me because it was my first time riding in the Pee wee II division," said Conan.

The Iakopo brothers attributed their success at the Cowtown Race Track this season to their season-long training routine involving other sports.

"We both stayed in shape

because we also play other sports like jujitsu, circuit training, and track and field," both said.

Stanley Jr. and Conan dedicated their victory to

their parents.

"We both dedicate this to our Daddy and Mommy. They helped us win this race. Shout out to Angelo

See SIBLING on **Page 19**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stanley Iakopo Jr., left, and Conan Iakopo proudly show off their No. 1 plates after winning the Mini I Class and Pee wee II Class of the M 2022 Monster Energy Point Series during the Marianas Racing Association's awards banquet last Sept. 10 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.